SUNDAY
October 15, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
32 Pages ₹ 8.00

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ON SUNDAY
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PATRIARCHAL FRAMEWORK

'Women made mere symbols'

Under Modi's rule, they are appreciated only in their restricted roles, says Sonia

NEWS» PAGE 10

India's 'study abroad' ecosystem is booming

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

Israel tells Gaza not to delay evacuation

WORLD » PAGE 12

India will bid for 2036 Olympics, says Modi

SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

Contractor's son says money came from sale of land

BENGALURU
The son of the contractor whose properties were raided by the I-T Department during which a large amount of cash was recovered, has claimed the money was his own, which came from a land sale deal and he would explain to the I-T sleuths soon. » Page 6

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

India shines

Hitting away! Rohit Sharma notched up a blistering 86 to put India on the path to a facile seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the ICC World Cup match in Ahmedabad on Saturday. K.R. DEEPAK (REPORT: PAGE 17)

Ferry to Sri Lanka plies after 40 years

PM Modi launches the passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai, speaks of enhanced economic and diplomatic ties

N. Sai Charan
NAGAPATTINAM

Enhanced connectivity was bringing people of India and Sri Lanka closer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday at the launch of an international, high-speed passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam on the eastern coast of Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in the northern province of Sri Lanka. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Tamil Nadu Minister E.V. Velu flagged off the craft from the Nagapattinam port, marking the resumption of the service after a gap of nearly four decades.

"Connectivity is not only about bringing two cities closer. It also brings our countries closer, our people closer and our hearts closer," Mr. Modi said, emphasising the role of trade, tourism and people-to-people ties in promoting new opportunities for growth for the young people of both countries. In his remarks, he highlighted the rich history of maritime trade linked to Nagapattinam and nearby towns.

The high-speed craft (HSC) *Cheriyapani* embarked on its journey around 8.15 a.m. with 50 passengers and 12 crew members headed by Captain Biju George.

The high-speed craft *Cheriyapani* can traverse the distance in four hours. N. SAI CHARAN

In video messages, Mr. Modi and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe hailed this diplomatic effort and highlighted the importance of launching the ferry service between the two nations. The service was agreed upon during the latter's India visit last July.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9
A BLOW TO LAKSHADWEEP
» PAGE 8

Sikkim's fallen Chungthang dam haunts India's dreams in Bhutan

Rahul Karmakar
Suhasini Haidar
GANGTOK/THIMPHU

The Chungthang dam of Sikkim Urja's 1,200-MW Teesta-III hydroelectric project on the Teesta river gave way on October 4, leading to the death of at least 94 people in the downstream areas of Sikkim and West Bengal.

The devastation has refreshed worries over two of three Indian-assisted, under-construction mega hydropower projects in Bhutan – the 1,200-MW Punatsangchhu Stage-I (Puna-I) and the 1,020-MW Punatsangchhu Stage-II (Puna-II). These projects, and the 660-MW Kholongchu, are estimated to cost ₹21,637.28 crore, funded by India, benefiting northern and eastern States.

Doubts were raised in February, when the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) uploaded a note on the projects completed, being constructed, and pursued under a 2006 agreement on cooperation in the field of hydroelectric power signed between the two countries. The status was updated in August, with hardly any changes.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

When Sleepy slept, Toppo toppled

The International Clown Festival had the performers delighting audiences across the country with a mixed bag of music, magic, dance and song

Akhila Easwaran
akhila.e@thehindu.co.in

The International Clown Festival, which is touring the country this month, began with a gala show in Chennai recently.

The annual festival that features clowns from across the globe has a simple but tough agenda: delight the audience and keep them laughing.

Established in 2010, the event is now into its ninth edition. Shows are being held in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Bengaluru too.

In Chennai, the sold-out event began with senior clown Flubber laying down the ground rules for the audience – make noise, make it louder and laugh as much as possible. A introduction song got children in the audience dancing and served as an ice-breaker.

Apart from the usual juggling, magic tricks, and mime acts, there were two international balloon artists in the ensemble: Captain Dazzle and Sleepy. They made animal and birds replicas from balloons in the blink of an eye.

The standout performance was the "Name Song", a musical performance that celebrates countries and cities.

Every clown came with a signature style: for instance, Flubber from India played the character of an eight-year-old, with all the energy and interest to learn new things; and Bungles from the U.S. became a boy who makes a lot of mistakes.

Toppo, the clown from Japan, would often fall over. Captain Dazzle from Singapore was the magician in the group and Sleepy, from Canada, was just that – sleepy. The audience wanted an encore from Sleepy each time, chanting, "We want Sleepy!"

Each show consisted of a 100-minute performance, with an eight-minute interval.

Several clowns interacted with the audience, ensuring continuous engagement. Giant balloons were playfully tossed into the crowd for everyone to bounce along, drawing lots of giggles. The show concluded with a lively dance that many in the audience joined in.

After the show, it was picture time with the clowns, before taking the fun memories home.

Best face on: Captain Dazzle putting on his red nose before the performance at Chennai.

Platform sharing: Captain Dazzle, Sleepy, Flubber, Bungles and Toppo strike a pose.

Blink and miss: Captain Dazzle and Toppo show off their juggling skills.

Philosoper clowns: Japanese theatre artists Rone and Gigi seem puzzled by it all.

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- Chaitanya

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CMYK BG-BGE CMYK BG-BGE

Dasara festivities, a blend of history, culture, and tradition, to kick off today

While Mysuru palace continues to be the main attraction during Dasara, the government has now extended the illumination to cover major roads and heritage buildings.

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Sparkling grandeur: The illuminated Mysuru palace. M.A. SRIRAM

A slice of the royal orient will unfold to a sea of humanity as Mysuru Dasara, to be held from October 15 to 24, will display the rich heritage of Karnataka with its seamless blend of history, culture, and tradition.

A custom that spans centuries and extends to the days of the Vijayanagar empire whose reign spanned nearly 300 years from the 14th to the mid-17th centuries, the mantle was inherited by the Wadiyars of Mysuru who carried forward the cultural practices.

Passed on to Wadiyars

For, the Wadiyars were the feudatories of the Vijayanagar rulers and after the decline and fall of the latter, Raja Wadiyar assumed kingship at Srirangapatana as the capital in 1610 CE and proclaimed that Navaratri be celebrated on a grand scale. The shifting of the capital from Srirangapatana to Mysuru after the 4th Anglo-Mysore war in 1799, resulted in Dasara being held in the city with Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar continuing the legacy. Fast forward to the present times the showpiece event of Mysuru appears to reflect the description of the Navaratri left behind by medieval travellers like Abdur Razzak of Persia who visited Vijayanagar between 1442-1443 CE, and Portuguese travellers Domingo Paes (1520-22), and Fernavo Nuniz (1535-37).

The archaeological excavations at Hampi and the discovery of Mahanavami Dibba a massive stone platform from where the kings used to watch the procession of the armed forces during Navaratri, is a testimony to the historicity of the celebrations.

Officially designated as the State festival or Naada Habba, Dasara in Mysuru is also a fulcrum to promote tourism which is the key economic driver of the region as the event draws visitors from not only across the State and the country but also from different parts of the world.

Though Dasara is a pan-Indian festival, it acquired a royal hue in Mysuru due to the patronage of the rulers and the grandeur reached its zenith during the regime of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar whose regnal years were from 1902 to 1940.

The public celebrations complete with durbar continued till 1969 and the grandeur is documented by way of murals painted by various artists at the Kalyana Mantapa of the Amba Vilas Palace. The abolition of the princely privileges through legislation saw a curtailment in the scale of Dasara celebrations and it was also confined to the privacy of the palace until the State government revived it in the 1970s when it acquired its present hue with display of cultural diversity and traditions of Karnataka.

Slew of events

The philosophical and religious underpinnings of Dasara remain unchanged and mark the victory of good over evil symbolised by Goddess Chamundeshwari killing the demon Mahishasura. In Mysuru the festival is also a platform to showcase classical and folk traditions with a slew of events planned to be held across the city with the illuminated palace taking the centre stage.

Bengaluru pandals prep up for this year's Durga Puja

Priyamedha Dutta
BENGALURU

It's that time of the year again when the city decks up to welcome Maa Durga. A festival deeply rooted in Bengal's cultural tapestry has now evolved into a fanfare for people cutting across geographical boundaries. Pandals of Bengaluru have become a testament to the intricate craftsmanship of Bengal artisans combined with traditional rituals, making Durga Puja a blend of faith, community, and creativity.

With the growing number of Bengalis living in Bengaluru now, the city has a hundred-plus registered Durga Puja pandals.

The Bengali Association for the Residents of Sarjapur and HSR-layout Area (BARSHA) started its journey in 2016. There was just a small puja then. Now in its eighth year, it organises one of the biggest pujas. BARSHA's theme this year is "Greek Elegance", on which local and Kolkata artists have worked together.

"The work of our idol started six months back in Kolkata. The *saaj* (ornamentation) of Maa Durga is being handcrafted by the descendants of the artisans from Krishnanagar in West Bengal, who are famous as the best idol makers for generations. The pandal is also a testament to the craftsmanship of Karnataka's own artisans," said Priyanka Sinha Roy, media and publicity head for BARSHA.

R.T. Nagar Sarbajanin Durga Puja Samiti is set to celebrate the 17th year of their puja in Princess Green, Gate 9 of Palace Grounds, with the theme *Melbandhaner Anginay*', which translates to an amalgamation of different cultures coming together. "This year, the face of Devi is detailed by the artisans of Kumartuli, Kolkata. Artists and technicians from Chandan Nagar, West Bengal, will embellish this creation with lights," says Sanjay Bhattacharjee, chief secretary of R.T. Nagar Puja.

Artisans at work for the R.T. Nagar Sarbajanin Durga Puja Samiti for this year's festival. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengali in Bangalore (BinB), which will organise its 13th edition of Durga Puja this year at Kalyani Kala Mandir, started as an online community and now has a strong base of members. A BinB spokesperson told *The Hindu*, "Over the years, we have an active participation of people from other non-Bengali communities."

The East Bengaluru Cultural Association (EBCA), which is set to organise this year's Durga Puja at Sumadhura Banquet Hall, Kannamangala, Whitefield, is a community of like-minded people from various States, which started their journey in 2018. Sumanta Paul, founder member of EBCA, told *The Hindu*, "Our focus always is to promote local craftsmanship. Last year, we promoted Channapatna toys that have been facing tough competition from Chinese toys. This year our theme is Chandrayan - 3, and we are also trying to promote Kairali Handlooms."

Music of Bengal

Most of the organisers are also bringing in artists from Bengal. Cactus, a famous rock band from Kolkata, is set to perform on October 20 (Maha Sashti) for BinB. "This year, we are bringing Joler Gaan, a famous folk band from Bangladesh, on Nabami (October 23); and we are trying to bring *Epar Bangla Opar Bangla* (West Bengal and East Bengal)," said Sanjay from R.T. Nagar Sarbajanin Durga Puja Samiti. Anjan Dutt and his band have etched their melodies for several generations with songs like *'Bela Bose'* to *'Darjeeling'*, and they will perform for BARSHA on Navami night. Fakira Band will be doing a live music performance on October 21, Saptami.

More the merrier

Rohan Roy, a software development engineer who has lived in Bengaluru for more than five years now, said, "It is very difficult to get leave during Durga Puja. For me, now Bengaluru Puja feels like home, from *pujor bhog* to *ashtamir anjali* it's the taste of Bengal. The best thing is that it is not just the Bengalis but different communities coming together here," he added.

THE HINDU
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Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, OCT. 15		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:01
RISE	06:27	SET 18:27
MONDAY, OCT. 16		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:00
RISE	07:17	SET 19:07
TUESDAY, OCT. 17		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:00
RISE	08:09	SET 19:51

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to prevail. Thunderstorm is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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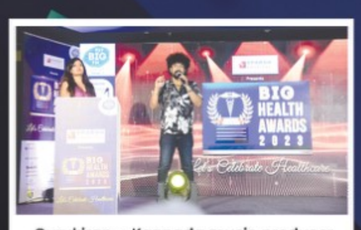
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M BG-BGE

Pops of colour: Captain Dazzle and Toppo share a balloon act.

Spring feet: Toppo made the audience laugh with his frequent slips and falls.

Crowd favourite: Children take pictures with Sleepy after the show.

Age no bar: Both children and adults found the clowns' antics amusing.

Fun quotient: Toppo, Bungles, Flubber, Sleepy and Captain Dazzle take centre stage.

Poster campaign against smoking launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After cracking down on tobacco consumers and sellers in the city, the police on Saturday launched a poster campaign against smoking in and around the city.

The aim is to ensure strict enforcement against the sale and the consumption of tobacco products at public places and to create awareness along with promoting a healthy lifestyle among the people, City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said.

The jurisdictional police have been given a set of posters to be pasted at public places. All eateries should get a licence to allow smoking on their premises and follow certain conditions, including having a separate place as a smoking zone. This is to ensure that non-smokers are not subjected to any kind of harassment, Mr. Dayananda said.

Registration of properties: Govt. urged to consider guidance value as on date of sale deed

Thousands of homebuyers are worried now as the State government increased the guidance value in the city by an average of 30% to 40% from October 1

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Property buyers have to shell out 4% stamp duty for properties worth less than ₹45 lakh and 6% for those above, apart from 1% registration charges and 0.65% cess and surcharge. FILE PHOTO

Shankar Roy has been in the process of buying a flat of his own for two years now. He entered into a sale agreement with a builder on the southeast outskirts of the city, and the flat is expected to be handed over to him in the next three months, when the property will be registered in his name. However, he has now run into an unforeseen problem.

The guidance value of his flat has shot up by nearly 50%, with effect from October 1. Now the stamp duty and registration charges for his flat - 6.65% of the guidance value of the flat - has also shot up severely. He is now likely to have to shell out an additional ₹2.5 lakh for registering his flat.

He's not alone. Thousands of homebuyers across the city are facing the same problem, as the State government hiked the guidance value in the city by an average of 30% to 40%, from October 1, almost five years since the last revision. In some cases, especially on the city's outskirts where most apartments and gated communities are coming up, even up to 80-100%.

Property buyers have to shell out 4% stamp duty for properties worth less than ₹45 lakh and 6% for those above the value, apart from 1% registration charges and 0.65% cess and surcharge.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India - Karnataka and the Forum for People's Collective Action (FPCE), a forum fighting for homebuyers' interests, have now appealed to the State government to consider the guidance value as on the date of the homebuyer entering into a sale agreement with the developer for registration, and not as on the date of registration of the property.

"The cost of registration has suddenly gone up by several notches. Already stressed homebuyers, especially those who have taken loans and are struggling to make ends meet, are again hassled. Some may now be forced to take loans again," said Santosh Patil, a founding member of FPCE. Suresh Hari, secretary, CREDAI - Karnataka, said while this hike in guidance value doesn't matter to those in the luxury homes sector, it had put considerable pressure on the mid- and lower-income group housing projects.

Property consultant K.R. Ramesh said the hike in guidance value also presented several tax complications as the difference in the guidance value is considered an income.

"The only solution for this is to give a six-month window before the new guidance value comes into force, so that all the pending sale agreements will go through and properties registered. This time, the window given, before the new revised guidance value came into force, was only 15 days. So thousands of homebuyers are currently facing this conundrum," he said.

Mamatha Gowda, inspector-general of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, said that the law, as it stands today, was clear that stamp duty has to be levied on a transaction as per the guidance value of the date of presentation of the documents for registration.

"This has been the practice for many years now," she said.

Only the State government can take a call on the request, sources said.

10 more Kannadigas return from Israel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 10 Kannadigas returned from Israel on Saturday, putting the total number of people safely coming back home at 16. On Monday six returned. This is the second batch to return.

Although the State government had informed the people stranded in Israel, all of them made their own arrangements both for stay and travelling back home. T.B. Jayachandra, Congress MLA, is overseeing the safe return of Kannadigas.

According to the State government, 4,000-5,000 people from Karnataka are stuck in the country. The Union government is bringing back countrymen through its 'Operation Ajay'.

Chetan Devanur Shanathamurthy, a post-doctoral fellow in Israel and one among the returnees, thanked the Union and the State governments for bringing people back home safe.

He lived about 60-70 km from the war zone and added that all the people in Israel are safe and there was no need for any panic. "Advanced anti-missile technology has been deployed and most areas are safe," he said.

Mr. Devanur said he was living in a housing facility given by the institute where he was working, and he could actually see missiles being destroyed in the dark hours. "We were all safe in that nation," he said.

Mr. Jayachandra said he has been shuttling between Bengaluru and Delhi.

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Revenue Department: Providing the right services at the right time to people

In the course of the past three months, progress review meetings have been held with the officers of all four Revenue divisions -- Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Belagavi and Bengaluru -- with the focus on ensuring right service to people at the right time without any delay.

The Revenue Department is the mother department for service delivery and the officers should serve the people with a motherly-heart was the message sent out down the official hierarchy in these meetings.

It was advised to dispose of all the dispute petitions pending in the Tehsildar, AC and DC Courts for the last five years within a time limit.

Ever since taking charge, one of the things Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has focused on is to ensure corruption free and timely delivery of services. Disciplinary files against about 66 officials/employees of the department were pending in the Ministry for the last 5 to 7 years without being investigated or disposed of. Now, all those files have been disposed of. All the officers found guilty in the said 66 cases have been punished according to the rules. Also, senior officials have been instructed to prepare the list of disciplinary action/departmental inquiry proposals pending against the officers for the last few years as soon as possible.

Record in file disposal

The Revenue department is determined to put a complete stop to all practices that result in delay in delivery of services.

Till now 3,900 pending files in the department have been disposed of. The department is working with 183% efficiency, as per data. The Revenue Department currently ranks second among all departments in efficiency and is in 'A' category in terms of file disposal. It ranks first among the larger departments.

Historic Amendment

After the new government took over, amendments to existing Acts were brought in to improve effeciency.

The PTCL Act was amended in the first session itself. A historic amendment was made by adding in Section 5(1) C that there shall be no time limit for repealing the provisions of this Act notwithstanding anything contained in any law. This shows the commitment of our government in returning the land of Dalits back to them.

A Registration Bill has been introduced and passed in the Assembly to punish officials who authorize property transactions on the basis of forged documents or other documents prohibited under law and to cancel such forged registrations.

Karnataka Land Revenue Amendment Bill-2023 was presented and approved to ensure administrative simplification and immediate work of people without delay, exploitation, extortion in government offices.

According to the new amendment, the permission of the District Collector is not required to use the land master-planned for non-agricultural purposes for the purposes mentioned in that master plan. Applicants for conversion of land outside the local planning area for which there is no master plan must submit an affidavit. If the Collector does not issue an order within 30 days, the land-conversion shall be deemed to have been approved.

Creation of Revenue Commissionerate

The Revenue Commissionerate was created to improve the standard of living of the rural people and to take the administration to the doorsteps of the people. In the interest of administration, several sections -- Directorate of Atalji Janasnehi, Directorate of Social Security and Pensions, Land Management Cell, Revenue Special Cell, Revenue Village Formation Cell, Audit Branch, House Rent Controller's Office Branch Enforcement Division Bangalore -- have been brought under the purview of Revenue Commissionerate. Through this, the district level and state level services will be made available to the public within the stipulated period.

Correspondence through e-office from August 15

E-office will certainly increase work efficiency. It is helpful for officers and ministers to dispose of files from any place. This will ensure that there is no concept of people waiting in front of the DC-Tahsildar office. Officials have been instructed to conduct correspondence through e-office as they will not receive physical correspondence from August 15. This process has been going on successfully.

Successful launch of Kaveri-2

Kaveri 2.0 software developed to provide simple and easy service to the people by solving the problem in the property registration system has been successful. This software is being implemented in 256 Sub-registrar offices of the State and the problem of fake accounts has been curbed. Earlier, the public used to wait for days at the sub registrar's office for the process of selling or buying their property. But, with the help of Kaveri 2.0, public can now complete their property sale process in just 10 to 15 minutes. Further, the public will not have to wait all day at the Sub-registrar's office for other services including property registration, purchase, deed, donation, contract and will. Kaveri 2.0 software has been successful for avoiding delays in work and cutting out middlemen.

₹ 1 crore per district for drinking water

Many districts of the State have not received the expected amount of rain this year. Thus drinking water was also a problem in some districts. Officials have been asked to identify such districts and allocate ₹ 1 crore to each district for supply of drinking water to the people. Also, all necessary steps have been taken to supply water through private borewells and tankers.

Govt. land encroachment clearance drive

Government land encroachment is the biggest problem in Bengaluru city and rural areas too. As a result, the government is losing a lot of revenue. Therefore, the authorities have been instructed to prepare a preliminary list of encroached land soon and proceed to vacate the encroached land every Saturday and Sunday. The encroachment clearance operation will start soon.

In many cases related to Government land encroachment, government documents have been stolen or some documents have been tampered with. So, land surveyors and village accountants have been instructed to re-survey (re-measure) every government land in government records under the leadership of Tehsildar. This is a major step in ensuring land does not get misused or go into the hands of land mafia.

More power to "Sakaala"

For the last 13 years, 1115 services have been provided to the people under 'Sakaala'. In order to add more services of the Revenue Department to this list, discussions have been held with the authorities. 'Sakaala' is a successful and exemplary project and many people are not aware of this project. Therefore, the authorities have been advised to take action to create awareness about this important project among the people.

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

DOCTOR

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 28yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite Business Family. Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU PALLAN 26yrs 158cm Studying 1st year MD Pulmonology Preferred Chennai Settled Doctors 7904156493

Reddy Doctor 32/165 MBBS, MS. Own Health Centre in Chennai, Well Settled Family, CNB Ph: 8925640111

SC AD, 30 yrs, MBBS, Doctor, working in NHS, United Kingdom, Hastham, Kanni seeks groom. Ct: 9003017072

PARENTS SEEKS CSI Doctor/ PG studying Doctor/ Vellore based proffessional to their Daughter 27, CSI Nadar, MD PG studying at Vellore. Contact: 9884652277

DOCTOR MD(Anaesthesia), DNB, PDCC (Liver Transplant), 33/173 seeks Tall, Hindu Vellalar Doctor MS/MD Groom. Contact: 98948 93344

DOCTOR GIRL 30/155 Physician/ MD Gen.Medicine,seeks Doctor/ Engineer/ Govt.Officer grooms (Kerala / Tamil Nadu) 9447 493034 / 9497 168001.

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, Tamil, Doctor–MD, Fellowship–Pediatrics–II year, Dec 92, Puratathi, Kumbam, No Dosham, seeks bridegroom from well settled, well–educated family in the same profession, PG–Engineers, CAs. Contact 9444841350

Tamil Hindu Agamudayar, MBBS, MD, 29 years fair seeks BC doctor groom Ct: 9443010858.

Nadar 28, Madurai, MBBS Doing MS (OG) Ct: 9894844811

KAMMA NAIDU, 27/168, MDS., BPS., (Prosthodontics and Implantology) certified BPS Specialist, Uthiratathi, Meenam, Mesham seeks Doctor Groom. Ph: 9842131535

MALAYALAM

CASTE NO BAR (JE, SOUTHERN RAILWAY) MALAYALI GIRL. 21/03/86 (POOYAM) CON: +919895671452

NRI

ALLIANCE INVITED From Hindu Professional Hailing from TN/ Kerala Working in USA for Girl 33/163cm, PhD Employed in USA University 9487527058

SOZHIA Vellalar, 26/156, Lawyer USA seeks Dr/Engr USA/India. 9711843871 Email: chillikumar2013@gmail.com

TAMIL

✔ Christian Believer, 43 Yrs, Unmarried, Software Engineer, seeks unmarried Christian.Contact: 7358663547

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, catholic 30 yrs, HR–MNC in Chennai, girl separated shortly with null and void order looking for catholic boy below 33 yrs, premier institute or professional with null and void or unmarried with clean habits, WhatsApp: 6380390185

KALLAR GIRL 27yrs / 172 cm / Fair complexion Sadhayam/Kumbam /doing M.D Course. Alliance invited from Doctor / Businessman from decent family of Mukkulathor /Mudaliyar / Pillai. Contact: 73058 36940 / 97907 22830

FAIR MUDALIAR 28 /170cm BE MS works in Chennai seeks well Settled Boy Decent Family Ct:9176620067 / 68

ISAI VELLALAR 24/155/B.com Nationalized Bank Cashier Avittam Magaram 35K.pm seeks Pillai/Mudaliar Bank/Government staff, Engineers, Teachers. Ct 8939338254 WhatsApp 9629614249

PILLAI / MUDALIAR, 34, MD, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 34-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. Contact: 9345855735

DIVORCEE 42, BA,Very Fair 2Childran,Seeks Broad Minded Groom below 50,Cast Nobar.Chennai only. 9025791355

THONDA MANDALA SAIVA MUDALIYAR Visagam 30/163 officer in Govt Bank Rs.75000 PM Seeks Officer in Banking / LIC / Govt Sector Smart Boy in Same Caste only. Subsect not accepted. 93448 27997 & 95977 70383

THE HINDU
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TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
RC Christian
28 yrs, B.Com MBA, good looking Bride from reputed Business Group in Chennai, Looking from Business / Bureaucrats / Doctor Well to do Family
8015257260

(F)–THEVAR (M)–MUDALIAR 27/156 MBBS Revathy, Meenam Seek Suitable Professional OBC, BC, FC. 9444490554

MUDALIAR (CNB): 26/ V.Fair, B.E, MS (USA), Business Analyst, MNC, USA, Well settled Family, Seeks Groom Abroad / India – 8939012419

MUDALIAR (CNB) 30/V.Fair & Beautiful, MBA, Project Manager, MNC, Bangalore, Business Family, Seeks Groom– Eng/ Business/ Abroad – 8925019776

HINDU NADAR 34/165 BE 100000per month Divorcee Seeks Suitable Groom KA RAMAN NADAR 9380791999/ 9047192999

RICH MUDALIYAR, 30yrs, BE, ME, MS (US),Working in US, Elite Business Family.Ct: 97100 93999/ 89396 91888

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 30yrs, MBBS, MD, working in Chennai,well Educated Family.Contact: 9710093999/ 8939691888

(F)–THEVAR (M)–MUDALIAR 29/153 B.Com MBA IT Pooram, Simmam Seek Professional OBC, BC, FC. Ct:9444490554

TAMIL VISWAKARMA Goldsmith Girl 25 / 154cm / Ayilyam M.Sc Chennai. Seeks Groom below 31 years. groomvish@gmail.com

FEMALE, HINDU Maruthuvar, 26Yrs, MDS, Kanni, Hastham Seeks Suitable Doctor Groom Caste No Bar: 9941143320

HINDU NADAR, 25Y Fair, BE, MBA Private. Accenture, Rs.55k pm. Good Family Background Ct : 7397776595

AGAMUDIYAR MARVAR 28/165 MCom Fair Rohini Research Analyst 9L Caste NoBar Seeks Employed Groom 9841314185

SENGUNTHAR DIVORCEE 38 Yrs B.Tech MNC Fair seeks Good looking well Educated Groom same/subsect. CT: 93448-50134.

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MBA, Working UK, 162cm,Fair,well Settled Family Seeks Alliance CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

SC AD 25/B.E.,MBA,MSR[IT],Software Engr.[cloud]1,25,000/– p.m. Very Fair Seeking Bridegroom. Ph:9444993417

SC ADIDRAVIDA Divorced No Child, Age 38 BE EEE Wkg in MNC .Well settled. Seeks Suitable Groom. 9940347310

PILLAI / Mudaliyar Divorced fair Girl Age 32 PG seeks Groom to be in Chennai from Elite Family 9345158257

GROOM WANTED–RICH Mudaliyar, 28yrs, B. Arch, Elite business family in Chennai Cont:9710093999/ 8939691888

NAIDU–CASTE NO Bar. 25y, BDS, Dr.50k/pm Seeks Dr, BE, IT. Good Family Background. Nithya: 7358638363

MBBS DR. TN Govt Chennai 23–02–90 fair slim 165 cm magaram uthiradam 4 Hindu Naidu Elite Family seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

MUDALIAR ELITE 23/164, Beautiful, MBA. Father Own Educational Institutions,70Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

AD (PR) 30/162cm B.E.,CSE,MS Ph.d working in USA seeks USA working groom, Age 30 - 33yrs, well Educated, Loving, Non- Vegetarian, same caste prefd email: shreebalan26@gmail.com Whats App: 97506 47711

ALLIANCE INVITED from broad minded, well educated, spiritually inclined bride grooms for an Iyer girl of 43 years, well qualified, based in Chennai. Contact: l.sanker@gmail.com or 9445010767

AD/SC Girl, 28, B.E.(ECE) Revathy-4 Employed Chennai seeks well Educated, Employed SC Boy. Ct:9176716076

Iyengar / Thenkalai / Bharadwaj, 25yrs 166cm, Visakam- (2) Ragu Dosham, B.E, MBA, Working in Wipro (HR) Chennai. Middleclass, Seeks Suitable Groom. Same Caste.Ct: 76396 60338.

TAMIL

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WANTED GROOM
Hindu Nadar Fair Girl 24 Yrs
155 cm , Post Graduate seeks educated groom from well to do family, respond to Whatsapp +919447133586 or Mob +918606551430

CHRISTIAN SC/AD 35/160 M.Tech, Govt. Bank officer, Seeks Groom Dr. Er. any Govt officer.Ct 9940130074

IYER GIRL 26 Fair Chithirai Bharadwajam B.Arch working in Dubai Seeks Well Settled boy in Similar Occupation or Other professionals. Email: jayaramankannan@yahoo.com

HINDU Nadar, 29yrs/ 160cm Moolam Dhanush, B.Tech(CS) Working-CISCO Bangalore seeks Groom with similar Background. Ct: 91768 00819

TELUGU

Reddy Doctor 32/165 MBBS, MS. Own Health Centre in Chennai, Well Settled Family, CNB Ph: 8925640111

24 MANAI Telugu Chettiar Doctor from Coimbatore doing MD, Good Looking, Charming Girl, 27yrs seeking Doctor from same community. Contact: 9486590838

KAMMA NAIDU bride Elite family 29/ 170 BBA IMBA,UK Business Sadayam Kumbha seeks same community PG Elite groom in & around Chennai 9944236959

NAIDU ELITE 25/160, Fair, Beautiful,MBBS, Father Owning Pharma Company, 50.Cr,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu , 26yrs, BE, Working in MNC, Elite business Family Contact:9962791888/ 9710093999

GROOM WANTED
NAIDU 30yrs, Arudra/ Thiruvathirai, Mithunam MS, Neuroscience (Australia) Father Landlord/ Business
CONTACT: CHENNAI
96001 79302
99403 04127

Balija Naidu, 27/152cm, PG Graduate Fair, MNC- Chennai, seeks well settled Groom below 30yrs. Ct: 63809 84534, e-mail: saanvigklr@gmail.com

BALIJA NAIDU 55yrs, Working in Pvt., Co. seeks decent groom age between 60-70yrs. Ct: 70925 69171

Kshatriya Raju, Telugu Bride, Fair 27/162, M.Tech (IT) seeks groom from the same caste. Chennai, Contact: 9498310558.

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM Parents Looking Alliance for their daughter 27, 5ft 8inch, wheatish, B.E., works from home for IT MNC (Bangalore). Looking for a Bridegroom (Grad./PG) working or business from simple decent religious family. No agents please. Please Contact Watsapp : +1 773 750 7474.

P.G.DOCTOR SMU Chennai Based, Parents Seeks Doctor/ Engineer Alliance from Tamil Nadu/ Bengaluru for their Daughter 32/5.6. Ct: 98415 24064

MUSLIM SUNNI GIRL
Seeking alliance for a Sunni Muslim girl hailing from a reputed family from North Malabar, Kerala and Schooling in Saudi Arabia. Educated and working in Canada as a Canadian citizen. A graduate in Economics Honours with additional qualification in finance and data analytics. Girl 34 years, 5'8", fair & slim. Looking for suitable boy.
ttpah@yahoo.com
:Whatsup:
+966-505236245
M: 9840379766

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

SEEKING BRIDE for 45 years old tamil working in Wipro, caste no bar. Contact 9597113308 / rvivekin.cbe@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

COIMBATORE 47 Years, 172 cm, 68kg, monthly 1 lakh, no demands Email: hereiam_hi@yahoo.com Ph: 9677776525

S.SPL DOCTOR (Tamil, Dec–91/185 cm/v.fair, clean habits, Hastham, working in Kochi) needs a noble, family oriented, tall, v.fair, PG clinical doctor /well qualified non medico bride from kongu vellalar, pillai, mudaliyar, kamma / general castes. Age 26–29 years. Parents: 93425–29547/90721–18800

DIVORCEE

RC 1973 / 165cm MA MBA, Asst.Man. Govt, 1L pm, Chennai, Divorce seeks suitable Bride Ct: 8148842983 CNB

SEEKING BRIDE for a 32–yr divorcee [no child] native of Puducherry, B.Tech MBA, MNC job in Bangalore, Tamil Vishwakarma, caste & language no bar. Cont. 9686107007.

NRI

NAIDU 28/180.POORATATHI,BTECH MS Working as Research Engr &Permanent Resident of Sweden. Call 9566682220

HINDU VISWAKARMA 31/155 MS PhD settled in Newyork seeks suitable bride TN/Kerala working studying in USA.CNB.Contact 7200771188

PUNJABI

SM FOR SEP 91 born teetotaler Punjabi khatri boy working in pvt. company in Tirupati (AP). PH +917982678145

SAURASTRA

SAURASTRA, 37, MBA, Pvt. Manager, 1.15L PM, Hastam, Kanni, Chennai – 63, Seeks CNB (veg) Bride 9381725577

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR, 27/180cm, BE, 125000, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: KA Raman Nadar 9380791999/ 9047192999

CSI Christian 28/165 B.D.S Doctor full time Practice, Chennai, good looking only son, well to do parents Dad - Dr, Mom - Engr seeks Bride CSI christian,fair,good looking well to do family. Ph: 94440 57211

Hindu Mudaliyar seeks suitable Bride for Chennai based boy with handsome look, Kind & Passion. Born 1995, 178cm, Pooradam Star, (No Dosham) MS Software Engineering, IT- Working Decent salary. Ph: 99406 64596

MUDHALIAR 37/170, Govt Chennai, Diploma in Electrical, Own House, 2nd Marriage, Seeking Bride from Decent Family. Caste No Bar. 9500100192.

AGE 35, Handsome, Affluent Groom wants Bride with 10Crore Asset. Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 7401489892

NAIDU 1994 born 186 cm BE MBA. Pilot with Indigo seeks fair educated Bride. Ct: 95000 57987, 74284 47958

YADHAVA TAMIL only B.Tech SR Data Scientist Chennai 25L/pa. Pooradam 05.12.94 / 165 / Fair / UPC. Seeks Brides as SWE other professional Horoscope doesn't Matter. 9840494566

32 YEAR old Vellalah Doctor Groom hailing from Nagercoil from Affluent Family is looking for a Non Doctor Graduate or Postgraduate Girl from the same or different community. The Groom is Fair, Handsome with clean habits and disciplined has a small birth defect in leg. The defect is compatible with normal walking. Only alliances willing to accept can call 9443131366.

HINDU NADAR 43 B.Sc., Kadagam Poosam Diverse with 2 Male Children (Age10,12) Seeks Nadar Bride. Remarriage, CastNoBar, No Expectation Brokers Excuse SasiKumar 9840075677

VANNIYAR 32 170cm Swathy Sal–50000 Fair (BE) Expected Chennai Alliance 7397340099, 9841257482

BRIDE WANTED–HINDU Nadar 26/165, BE, Builder, Monthly Income 5Lakhs KA RAMAN NADAR 9380791999/ 9047192999

BRIDE WANTED– Elite Mudaliyar, 27yrs, B.Com, Elite Business Family in Chennai. Ct: 9710093999/ 8939691888

NADAR–27, BE.ARCH, 170cm. 80k/pm Seeks Suitable Normal Family Background. Chennai Any District:7397776595

MUDALIAR 30/ 178 cm, B.E, MS (USA) , Works in the USA, Family financially well off. Seeking a well educated and beautiful girl from a decent Hindu Family. Ct: 94445 74732

BE, MBA,42, Cyber security, IT, Chennai Tamil boy seeks Good character Girl for his 1st Mrg: 9742033888

PILLAI 1983 working in MNC Chennai. 90k pm divorcee marriage not consummated seeks bride caste no bar mobile 98433 84166

HINDU DKV 38/160 BE SWE Germany 60/ L PA Pooradam Dhanus Seeks Brides DRs SWE IT Field move to Germany CNB. Ct: 94433 66333/ 9487 571853

HINDU KONGU Vellala Gounder 36/183 Sadayam, B.Sc.,MBA Job&Business 30L P.A. Working Chennai Upper Middle Class Suitable Girl Any Degree& Any Caste in B.C.,Whatsapp: 9360323979

SENGUNTHAR, 38/165. Widower. NRI. 65 Lacs. B.E. 2Kids live together. No expectations. Look for unmarried family orient girl. Ct: 7904495268

MUDALIAR ELITE 30/180, MBBS,MS, Own Hospital,5000000.PA,Doctors Family 90.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BRIDE WANTED SC (AD) 30yrs, BE, MS working in MNC, 2Lakhs pm, Well Educated Family 9710093999/ 8939691888

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 34/170, BE, 300000, Working in Bangalore. KA Raman Nadar: 9380791999/ 9047192999

MUDALIYAR AGE 46 Well Settled Groom, Seeks 45 To 55 Well Settled Helping Minded, Widower, Divorcy Individual Person Good companion, Age, Caste No Bar. Ct: 8838225041

HINDU SC Revathi,Meenam 1986 Govt. Bank Dep. Manager seek suitable bride.CT:9486516501,9894559191

VADAGALAI IYENGAR 30,172, MBA, kasibha,Kirthigai, Working SBI Seeks suitable bride 9952903382/ 9790742346

BRAHMIN IYER Kousiga Gothram, Magam born july 1988 working in Sharjah 240000 AED per annum seeking unmarried Brahmin girl. Call 9176641005

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
NADAR (R.C), 25, 180CM, B.E., BUSINESSMAN. INCOME 1 CRORE PER ANNUM (MIN). BELONGS TO AN AFFLUENT BUSINESS FAMILY WITH GOOD NET WORTH. SEEKING A SUITABLE BRIDE (AGE 21–24) FROM THE SAME CASTE AND RELIGION. GROOM'S FATHER CONTACT NO :96778 19901

IYER SMARTHA Brahmins 27/ 180, Moola, Dhanur, Vashista, Fair, B.Tech., Sr.SWE Chennai seeks professionally qualified IT Bride. Ct: 7397061997

PILLAI 36yrs Ayilyam masters in Banking and Finance, working in MNC 25L PA seeks suitable Educated Girl from decent family same caste.9445068271

Tamil Iyer Boy 30yrs B.E / PGDB&F, Working, Own House, Family well settled in Chennai, Seeks Qualified, Working Bride with Good Family Background. Ct:9080393228 / 9444010933

BRIDES WANTED
Hindu, Doctor, affluent, handsome, divorcee, 47/180cm, Mudaliar, Currently working in Singapore, seeks suitable alliance.
Caste No Bar
Contact or Whatsapp
96000 10420
drakpchennai@gmail.com

Gavarai Naidu, 30/173cms, Avittam, Kumbam, Master of Physiotherapy, working in National Health Service NHS, England. Seeks Educated Bride. Contact: 72002 23066 / 80562 04841.

HINDU Thuluvavellala Mudaliar 33yrs MBA, Asst.Mngr in Chennai,vegetarian legally Divorced seeks Edu. Girl from a well settled family. CNB. 82484 23389.

HINDU YADAVA, 57, Govt.Employee, Widower, Vegetarian seeks suitable Vegetarian Bride or Widow. Caste No Bar. Send Biodata to 9443157353

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI,37/165, M. Tech.,(Ph.D), HOD, Pvt.Engg. College, Pondy Seeks Bride 29 to 36yrs 9942257578

TELUGU

✔ BALIJA, 26/164 Avitam, Magaram, BE, MBA, V.Fair MNC seeks working, Fair,Gd Looking Bride. Ct:9444971365 Mail: mkrishnakumar1965@gmail.com

BALIJA 29/180 cms, Magam, Simma Raasi /BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride–Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

GOOD LOOKING well educated Kamma 39yrs, Businessman earning 3.3L PM Net worth above 20 Crore, Financially Sound. Seeks CNB, any qualification no expectation 7200312020

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU 30yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Mfg) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

GAVARA 27/180 cm Pooram Simmam B.E-ECE Working in MNC Rs.8Lac p.a seek suitable well settled Qlfd working Bride subsect no bar. CT:94440-23748

GAVARA clean habits 28 / 177cm M.Tech from CIPET Chennai working in Central Govt. R&D HPCL Bangalore @ 18L p.a belongs to a Upper Middle Class Tiruppur having own house Kumbam / Pooratathi seeks suitable bride below 26 years. Subcaste no bar. CT: 94868-15839.

NAIDU ELITE 27/180, Handsome, MBA, Industrialist, 7000000.PA,50.Cr Net Worth, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

A WELL settled naidu family seeks suitable bride for their fair boy (B.E. / SWE / 12 lakh pa / 43 y / legally divorced) caste no bar. Call : 97907 23821/ 77950 77750

AGE 26, Height 5ft 8inch, MBA, Genpact Jonnalagadda Family required Bride from Vaidiki Brahmin Family. 9701060771

KAMMA NAIDU 49/186 Sadayam, MCA Divorcee No Issues, IT Project Manager, 30 Lacs. Seeks Bride. 8248522648

GAVARA NAIDU, Pooradam, 26/173 B.E., MNC, 12L PA, Very Fair seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 88703 80440

URDU

SMU 35/5.9 BE/MBA working in MNC Bang, unmarried, teetotaler. Chennai based family parents seeking educated bride from TN or Bang 9176219286

MARRIAGE BUREAU

USA UK Europe All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

MUSLIM ALLIANCE only. Married/ Unmarried. Best Rib matched. 7200398098

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 29, 188 cms, Software Professional, MS (Eng). Lives in USA. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 27, 188 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

YADAV, 27, 178 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Pondicherry. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

VANNIYAR, 27, 180 cms, Doctor, MD. Lives in the UK. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

KAMMA, 27, 175 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 24, 165 cms, Business Analyst, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 24, 157 cms, Student, Pursuing, MD. Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 27, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, UG. Lives in Erode. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 25, 157 cms, Entrepreneur, MFA. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

REDDY, 27, 160 cms, Student, MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

DIVORCEE

SOUTH INDIAN Brahmin divorcee (March 84) working as Senior Data Analyst in Bangalore seeks suitable Alliance from Bangalore, Contact: kamala7591@gmail.com

DOCTOR

Hindu SC (AD), MBBS, age 30/167cms Fair, purattati, Kumbam. Need Doctor Bride. Contact: 9444314459

ENGINEER

BE & MBA, Wrkg IT MNC CHN, Boy, 33y, h5.9, Hindu, Kapu, Settibalija (OC). maddbvr@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

BRAHMIN – Kanada Smaratha, 31, BE, MBA, Bank Asst. Manager, 1L PM. Seeks Suitable Educated Bride at any Brahmin. Ph: 9003114703 / 9677106467

MALAYALAM

ONLY SON, M.Com, 175CM, 22–11–93, 8–45am, CH, own flat, no demand. Seek Chennai employed girl. 9444253253

HINDU EZHAVA, Govt. Plus Two Teacher, Gazetted Officer, 51, Chathayam, Trivandrum 9447005305

✔ Nair Boy 31/5.6"/B.E/Trivandrum/ Works in US based MNC Madurai/ Thriketta Star seeks proposal from Educated Nair Girls. Ct: 9486269717 shashivakkiyiel@gmail.com

VELLALA BOY 35/ 172, SWE (Canada). Origin: Trivandrum. Seeks alliance from an educated family (Same caste/ caste no bar). Preference: Malayalees/ Tamilians. Cont: 9994724482/ 9994724483

ALLIANCE INVITED from Christian Evangelical parents for the son of retired professionals from Ernakulam, 29 years, 170 cms, BTech, born and brought up in Doha and currently working as an Engineer in Doha University with family status. Call 8606508759 Email: naliyathraju@hotmail.com

TAMIL

SEEKING EDUCATED Bride for our Son Muslim (Tamil) 37/180 Divorcee Engineer Working in Gulf. Child with Mother. 99408 71319

Tamil Muslim Groom 39, 5'1", Liberal, has PhD, earns 30 LPA, native of Madurai, working in Bangalore seeks Bride 29-37 Yrs. Call 9443035373

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E Software Engineer,never married,seeks educated bride,Chennai,CT – 9500188067

SUITABLE BRIDE for a spiritual Christian slim PG surgeon with brown complexion 36/ 173/ 64 Assistant Prof. Govt. Medical College Hospital Tamilnadu. Residence and clinic at Chennai. Awaiting divorce no children. Send profile to selvarajans89@gmail.com

Viswakarma 29 M.Tech Magam SWE Bangalore 32Lac p.a seeks educated working Bride with good family back ground caste no bar. CT: 9444302810.

BRIDE WANTED Elite Mudaliyar, 38yrs, B.Tech, 2Lakhs/pm, Business Family. Contact: 9962791888

HINDU– SOWRASHTRA community, looking for a bride for my brother Vinay Kumar, Age: 35, 5ft 7inch, Bachelor degree, Kotak Bank, Salary: 15L, Bangalore. Contact: 9884563542

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 26/175 BE MS USA MonthlyIncome 6L Elite Family RAMAN NADAR 9380791999/ 9047192999

VADAKALAI IYENGAR Kowsigam Uthradam–1 June 1993 5ft 11inch Fair BE MS(USA) employed BIG–4 USA H1B Very clean habits traditional family unconsummated innocent divorce within a week seeks suitable Bride. Contact: krvr006@gmail.com Mob: 8925469899.

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

SC AD 46, Govt. University Professor seeks Bride / Widow for remarriage. Caste no Bar. CT: 63854-67085.

IYER VADAMAL Mouthgalyam Pooradathi Meenam 41 years, TCS Non IT Chennai. Sub–sect no bar. Ct : 9790827138

TAMIL

A WELL Settled Healthy Hindu 57 Separated seeks Elite Broad Minded Independent Women above 45 as Companion & Soulmate No bar 7397087032

37 Years (M.Sc Nursing) Kongu vellala Gounder male nurse working at Kuwait seeks suitable bride. No restriction. CT:9443240384, sen1042@gmail.com

VISWAKARMA, 37, MA, Journalist, 6 Lakh PA seeks Good Looking & Educated Bride.Caste no bar. 7401297233

VANNIYAR, 30/172CM/ Swathi/ Fair, MS, USA Employed seeks Educated suitable Bride. Contact: 9444678830.

AGAMUDAYAR, B.E., 30yrs, 172cm, Pooradam, Fair, Software Engineer, 31 Lakhs PA seeks SWE/ BE/ Dr Bride. Ph: 8508099103, 6382086919

WELL ESTABLISHED Chennai Based Business Family invites suitable Bride for their MBA qualified Self employed only son. 5'11 Tall and Handsome.Divorcee, Issueless, Caste No Bar. Ct.9710605625

MAYAVARAM SAIVA Pillai, Hindu, 19.12.1977, 170cm, DME, Revathi, Meena rasi, working in Saudi Arabia, Raghu & Kethu, Seeking suitable Veg Bride/Girl, Brokers Excuse. 09845256561. sudharbindhu@gmail.com

HINDU Udayar 45 yrs, MCA Divorcee Job in Singapore Bank seek Educated bride.Caste no bar. CT: 99949-61320

✔ PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR), DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

TAMIL HINDU Nadar, B.Tech, Industrialist, 29/180, Fair, Athletic, Seeks Bride, CNB. 9326750083, 9967161688

BE from BitsPilani, 6'1 Mudaliar 31 Sr Product Manager at Bangalore Salary 42 lacs seeks Bride Height from 5 4' same or Allied Castes BE, CA Doctor. Mobile - 7382620365.

Hindu Tamil SC Male, 26 Years, M.Sc Pvt, Father Bank officer, Contact: 9677211202.

WANTED A suitable, well-educated bride for research scientist, USA 46 year old, Reddy (caste no bar) intrested profile Ct : 9443498385.

REAL ESTATE

SELLING

RESIDENTIAL LAND

RESIDENTIAL PLOTS for Sale Adjacent to HAL Main Gate, Nittur, Gubbi, Bengaluru–Honnavar road."Excellent Investment Opportunity" Contact us:9611556654

SELLING

FARMHOUSE / LAND /RESORTS

TAMILNADU, THIRUTHANI, THIRUVALANGADU Near by 160, 60, 7.50, 4.50, 4, 30, 2Acres Land for Sale. 7708058919

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

EDUCATIONAL

VACANCIES

ST. JOHN'S Public School, Jalladianpet, Chennai 600100. Invites applications for the position of Vice Principal for their Senior School Cluster. Candidates who had served as Principal/Vice Principal in CBSE schools, holding PG in Science or English with minimum 3 years work experience as supervisory head and below 50 years of age can apply. Remuneration Rs. 80,000/– per month and beyond depends on Merit of the applicant. Eligible candidates can apply to our email ID – rkishore@sjps.edu.in before 20th October 2023.

PRINCE
SHRI VENKATESHWARA ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE
GOWRIVAKKAM, CHENNAI – 600 073.
WANTED
LADY PROFESSORS & Asst. PROFESSORS
in Mathematics, Statistics, Commerce, Computer Science, Economics & Physical Directress.
Qualification : M.A./M.Sc./ M.Com./ M.C.A./M.B.A. with Ph.D./ SLET/NET
Apply in person.

PRINCE
MATRICULATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL,
No.67, College Road, Nanganallur, Chennai – 600 114
WANTED
LADY TRAINED / UNTRAINED POST GRADUATE TEACHERS
in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and History,
Apply in person.

Three of family killed in accident on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway

Victims were from Peenya and were heading to Srirangapatna to perform rituals following the death of a relative recently

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three members of a family were killed and four others injured, when their van collided with a lorry on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway near Kempegowdanadoddi in Ramanagara on Saturday morning at around 8 a.m.

The van that was involved in an accident on the expressway.

The deceased have been identified as Rajesh, 50, his wife Latha, 45, and her mother Lakshmmamma. The injured, Suresh, Srujan, Rohan, and Mohan, were admitted to the Ramanagara district hospital.

The victims were from Peenya and were heading to Srirangapatna to perform rituals following the death of a relative recently.

Rajesh worked as an autorickshaw driver and was driving the van on Saturday. The police said that in a bid to overtake the lorry, he lost control over the vehicle and collided with it.

The impact of the accident was so great that the vehicle was mangled and the police along with the passers-by struggled to rescue the victims.

The Ramanagara Traffic police have registered a case and are investigating what led to the accident.

Following the enforcement of speed limit and lane discipline, the number of fatal accidents on Bengaluru - Mysuru Expressway had drastically come down in the recent months.

Student killed after bus knocks down bike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old Engineering student was killed and his classmate injured, when their motorcycle was knocked down by a BMTC bus on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Gangadhar, a resident of Kamalanagar.

The bike rider, identified as Likhith, lost control and slipped on the right side of the bus. Gangadhar, who was riding pillion, slipped on the left and came under the wheels of the bus and was killed. The driver abandoned the bus and fled the scene.

The Yeshwanthpur Traffic police booked the driver for rash and negligent driving and causing death due to negligence.

Incense factory, junk shop gutted in two accidental fires

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two accidental fires gutted an incense factory and a junk shop in the city on Saturday.

Panic gripped the residents of Parvathi Layout in Laggere, when a junk shop was gutted owing to an electricity transformer explosion leading to thick smoke covering the area.

The fire soon spread to the junk shop situated adjacent the transformer. Since the junk shop had a huge storage space for waste material, like plastic bags, polythene bags, discarded electrical switches and wires, the fire spread and the godown was gutted followed by thick smoke.

In another incident, goods and material worth several lakh were gutted in an accidental fire that broke out at an incense stick manufacturing unit situated on Pipeline Road in Cholurpalya on Saturday morning.

The fire broke out at around 9.30 a.m. at the shop situated on the ground floor and spread to a bike parked close by.

Soon the fire spread to the other vehicles parked close to each other.

Civic workers' union slams govt. for cancelling funds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Pourakarmikara Sangha has condemned the State government for cancelling ₹15 crore funds, granted to purchase uniforms and safety equipment for the city's 18,500 civic workers.

Pourakarmikas have been demanding safety equipment for a very long time as they work in treacherous conditions. Nirmala, president of the association, said that the pourakarmikas are struggling on the ground, without adequate safety equipment and it is a basic need. The uniforms have worn out a long time ago.

Many workers are falling sick owing to poor working conditions and lack of safety equipment to protect them from health risks. It is unacceptable that the government has cancelled funds meant for safety gear. This order should be reversed, Ms. Nirmala said in a statement on Saturday.

"The government's decision shows that they are least concerned about the safety of civic workers who are the backbone of the city. We put our lives at risk to maintain hygiene and the government should take the utmost care of pourakarmikas," she said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Rashmi Singh .M, D/o. Late. Sri. B. N. Mohan Singh, intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owners Sri. N. Nagaraju S/o. Sri. D. K. Narayanappa and his Children Viz., Kumari. Bhavana .N, & Kumari. Sushmitha .N, all are residing at Ibasapura Village, Chanarayanapatana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk,

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Southern Portion of Agricultural land bearing old Sy. No. 135/1, New Sy. No. 135/5, measuring to an extent of 15 guntas out of 30 guntas, Situated at Ibasapura Village, Chanarayanapatana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, and bounded on: East by : Sriramappa property, West by : Road, North by : Remaining land in Sy. No. 135/5 of vendors, South by : Munishamappa property.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 14-10-2023

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mrs. Kusuma Reddy Mallu [existing name of spouse as per NOK POR/Service Documents/PPO] D/o Mr.Reddappa Reddy is legally wedded spouse of Mr.Mallu Raja Reddy, presently residing at No. F-10 Balaji Nest Apts, 1st Main, Basappa Layout, Near Good Year School, Hennur Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560043, Karnataka.
Hereby declare that,
I have changed my name from
Kusuma Kumari to
Kusuma Reddy Mallu
vide Affidavit dated 11.10.2023, sworn before VII Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore.

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कोट्टायम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY KOTTAYAM
(An Institution under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, governed by an Act of Parliament)
Email: registrar@iiitkottayam.ac.in, Website: www.iiitkottayam.ac.in

Advt. No. IIITK/01/12/2023/2263 Dated: 13/10/2023

Admission to Ph.D. Programme (Under VISVESVARAYA Ph.D. Scheme for Electronics & IT: Phase II)

Interested candidates are invited to attend a walk-in interview for admission to the Ph.D. programme under Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Scheme as follows:

Date: 20/10/2023, Time: 9.30 AM onwards, Venue: BC 318, New Academic Block, IIIT Kottayam

Selection of candidates for the Ph.D. Programme will be based on **a written test and *technical interview***. For more details regarding the admission process, please visit: https://www.iiitkottayam.ac.in

REGISTRAR

KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA TUMAKURU
AMALAPURA VILLAGE,
ARAKERE POST, TUMAKURU-572106
PHONE- 0816-2959066 (O), WEBSITE – tumkur.kvs.ac.in

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Walk in Interview will be held in the Vidyalaya premises for engaging Part – time Contractual teachers for the academic year 2023-24 on 16.10.2023 at 9 am for the post of PGT(Chemistry), TGT (Hindi), TGT(English) and Primary Teacher.

Eligible candidates may attend the interview with **Bio-Data** form duly filled in along with one set of their testimonials.

Bio-Data form can be downloaded from Vidyalaya Website

For further details log on to our website.
Remuneration - As per KVS RULES

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

(Government of Karnataka)
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT HASSAN DIVISION HASSAN
Phone No.08172-261640 Email Id:eerdwsd.hsn@gmail.com

ONE COVER SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 02/2023-24 DATED : 13.10.2023

On Behalf Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply &Sanitation Department Hassan Division Hassan. Has Invited the Tender for the works of Belur Taluk Approved under 2022-23 JJM Mentioned Below, **One Cover System works:** Belur Taluk 12 Works (SC). Belur Taluk 05 Works (ST). Belur Taluk 02 Works (General). Above work tenders are invited in One cover system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal . The tender details are available in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in From 13-10-2023 After 5.30P.m . The bidder should submitted the tender with in the dated: 25-10-2023 before 05:30 P.M. The Technical bid & Financial bid will open on dated:27-10-2023 after 10:30A.M. The Executive Engineer has reserved the rights of to cancel all tender or any one tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural drinking water and sanitation Dept, Hassan division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/423/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/424/2023–24

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board
KIADB
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

e-AUCTION

"Residential Houses Ready to Occupy Built on Government approved encumbrance free Land"

Location
Residential Layout Area of Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area, 3rd Phase, Tumakuru District

Last date for Registration for e-Auction is
17th October 2023

e-Auction is "LIVE" on
19th & 20th October 2023

For More Details Contact: KIADB,
Tumakuru Zonal Office, Maruthi Groups Building,
2nd Floor, Near SIT College, Main Gate,
B.H. Road, Tumakuru - 572103.
Email – dotumakuru@kiadb.in
Website: www.kiadb.in
Contact Details: 99029 33944/95387 46961/ 9449626995

HURRY
"Participate"
For Registration and Bidding
Please Visit e-procurement Portal:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Location
Residential Layout Area of KIADB, Raichur City

Last date for Registration for e-Auction is
18th October 2023

e-Auction is "LIVE" on
20th & 21st October 2023

For More Details Contact :
KIADB, Raichur Zonal Office,
COM-2, Raichur Growth Centre,
Housing Layout, Yermarus, Raichur-584134.
Email: ddokiadbrcr@gmail.com,
Website: www.kiadb.in,
Contact Details: 84314 96301 / 79752 34573 / 94481 09286

Vasanthanarasapura

Raichur Residential Layout

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INBRIEF

224 Agriculture Department employees transferred

The State government issued an order for the transfer of 224 Agriculture Department employees, including 106 Agricultural Officers. Among the employees transferred were 106 Agricultural Officers, seven Assistant Agricultural Officers, and two Joint Director for Agriculture.

TT Association to focus on identifying players in schools

The Table Tennis Association of Karnataka has decided to give top priority to table tennis in order to identify potential and promising players to participate in National Games and Asian Games. A decision to that effect was taken in the annual general meeting of the TT Association, which met under the chairmanship of Raksha Ramaiah, president, TTA here on Saturday.

Mr. Ramaiah in a press release said, "The quality of selection must be made in such a way that the players must be able to participate and compete in National and Asian Games."

He also said that TT tournaments will be conducted in the district and taluk level in order to recognise talented youths. A memorandum would be submitted to Karnataka Olympic Association requesting to give priority to the game of TT.

I-T searches: Contractor's son claims seized money came from sale of land

BJP demands CBI probe; alleges that the Karnataka State Contractors' Association has itself become a 'commission collection centre'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The son of the contractor whose properties were raided by the Income Tax (I-T) Department during which a large amount of cash, said to be over ₹40 crore, was recovered, has claimed the money was his own, which came from a land sale deal and he would explain to the I-T sleuths soon.

The I-T sleuths had raided premises linked to R. Ambikapathy, vice-president of Karnataka State Contractors' Association and president of BBMP Contractors' Association, and are said to have recovered over ₹40 crore in cash. The raids that began on Thursday evening concluded on Saturday morning. The I-T sleuths have deposited the huge amount of cash in a State Bank of India (SBI) safe and recovered several documents, gold ornaments among other valuables, according to sources.

Over ₹40 crore was found during I-T searches conducted on properties linked to contractor Ambikapathy in Bengaluru.

A. Pradeep, son of Mr. Ambikapathy, claimed that the raid was against him and his company that has been active in real estate for over 15 years now. He claimed that the recovered cash had nothing to do with his father.

"Do not drag my father into this. The Income Tax Department has served me notice to appear before them on October 17. I will explain to them the source of the money found in the house. We had sold a piece of land and the money was related to that. I have all the documents to substantiate this," he told mediapersons on Saturday.

BJP charges

Meanwhile, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded that the case be probed by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"The very fact that over ₹40 crore has been found at a house linked to a contractor days after the State government cleared bills worth ₹650 crore is an indication of kickbacks to clear bills. The Karnataka State Contractors' Association made baseless allegations against our government of taking 40% commission. But now it looks like the association has itself become a commission collection centre," said former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Another senior BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa also demanded a CBI probe into the case and said only such a probe would bring out the role of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the "scam". He alleged the money now recovered were proceeds of corruption and was being used to fund elections in five States.

'Talking like I-T dept'

However, Mr. Shivakumar said that BJP and JD(S) were jumping the gun and talking like spokespersons for the Income Tax Department.

"Are BJP and JD(S) leaders part of the I-T Department? Let the department first come out with facts of the case," he said.

The I-T Department, meanwhile, continued to be tight-lipped about the case and has refused to give out any details so far.

Contractors' association complains to Siddaramaiah of 'harassment' by BBMP Commissioner, Chief Engineer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Congress government has started clearing pending bills of contractors for the last five-and-a-half months, the Karnataka State Contractors' Association office-bearers on Saturday met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and complained to him about "harassment" faced by contractors at the hands of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner and the BBMP Chief Engineer.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meeting a delegation from the contractors' association in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters on the outcome of the meeting with the Chief Minister, association president D. Kempanna said, "We have complained about the bad conduct of the BBMP officials. We have complained to the Chief Minister that the BBMP Commissioner and the Chief Engineer harass contractors seeking money." Mr. Siddaramaiah assured the association that he would summon BBMP officials and speak to them on the matter, Mr. Kempanna said.

30-day deadline

On Friday, the association criticised the State government for non-clearance of pending bills and set a 30-day deadline to clear all of them, failing which they would launch a protest across Karnataka.

The government has to release an estimated ₹25,000 crore pending dues to contractors for works taken up across various departments down the years. The government must stop taking up new works without clearing old dues, Mr. Kempanna said.

The association president said the Chief Minister explained about the financial constraints faced by the government. "Mr. Siddaramaiah told us that he would clear the pending bills as early as possible. The Chief Minister said he would call a meeting of the officials soon to discuss all issues.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also said he would be ready to hear their grievances, if any," he said. Mr. Siddaramaiah also said he would release the amount and look into the association's demands if they were genuine, Mr. Kempanna said.

Three meetings

The association members have met the Chief Minister and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar thrice by now and the meeting did not result in clearing the pending dues. He alleged that money was being released only to certain contractors who went with recommendation letters.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Design and Investigation Division, Bannur, T.Narasipura Taluk, Mysore District, Karnataka
PHONE AND FAX NO. 08227-275653
E-mail: eedidbannur@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.01/2023-24: D: 09.10.2023

(Through E-procurement only)

Short term Tender is invited vide this office notification No.01/2023 -24: Dated:09-10-2023 for Total 04 number of works according to Kw-2 & Kw-3. The dates for submission of tender and opening of the tender and other details can be obtained from the e-portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, D & I, Division, Bannur.
DIPR/DDMYS/KSMCA/521/2023-24

'Not establishing educational institute on CA site within time frame violates right to education'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The non-establishment of an educational institution even after a lapse of two decades on a civic amenity (CA) site allotted for that purpose is nothing but violation of the right to education of children, who could have studied there had the institution been set up, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"This site has remained unutilised for a period of more than two decades, that is till date, after it was allotted... As a consequence, the right to education of those who would have studied, should the school or educational institution have been established in this site in terms of stipulation of allotment, has been brutalised, to say the least," observed the court.

A Division Bench made these observation while dismissing an appeal filed by Divyajyothi Vidya Kendra (DVK), a registered society, at Yelahanka New Town. The appellant had questioned a judge's July 2023 order of upholding the Karnataka Housing Board's 2018 decision of cancelling the CA site allotted to DVK at Sector-B, Yelahanka New Town.

Huge site allotted

The KHB had allotted the huge site in favour of DVK in 2003 and handed over the possession of the site in October 2005 on lease-cum-sale basis on the condition that allottee should start an educational institution by putting up construction within two years. However, DVK did not even start construction till 2015, and though construction started much later, it still remained incomplete, the court noted.

While directing the KHB to determine the quantum of forfeiture of the CA site and refund the remaining amount in a time-bound manner within four weeks, the Bench also directed DVK to deliver the possession of the property in an as is where is position to the KHB.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

SINGARAM RAJAGOPAL
(23.11.1925 - 13.10.2023)
Wife of late V C Rajagopal
Survived by daughters:
Rama Sampath Kumar,
Udhaya Radhakrishnan and
Revathi Vasudevan.
Ph: +91 98331 22647

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Saroja Sundaram (Amma)
Fondly remembering you on what would have been your 90th Birthday (October 15, 2023)
- Jaya, Ravi, Shubha, Akhila, other family members & friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

B.R. SLKPT
23rd ANNIVERSARY
IN TREASURED MEMORY OF

SRI. R. RAGHURAMAN
(former Proprietor)
S.L.K.P.Transports,
Gudiyattam
Fondly remembered by Staff & Family Members

9th ANNIVERSARY

29.04.1935 - 15.10.2014
Sri. K.R. NARAYANAN
Rtd. CWS/S.Rly
Missing you so much Tata
By Ramya & Prasanna
9940657984, 9790933226

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY

JANANAM 02.03.1946
MUKTHI 15.10.2000

Sri. R.RAGHURAMAN
In Fond Memory of our Former Joint Managing Director
Sri Lakshmi Saraswathi Textiles (Arni) Ltd.,

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE — THE HINDU

GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-74)
O.S. NO. 25457/2023

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Ms. Mansi Singh
...Plaintiff
AND :
Sri Shantha Prabhu P
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Sri Shantha Prabhu P
S/o Sri Peter,
Aged about 40 years,
No. 92 Cross, M M Road, Byatarayanapura, Mysore Road, Bangalore- 560 026

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 5,88,105/- (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Five Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 73rd Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-74) in person or through person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made ast you on **06.11.2023** at **11:00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and aispesed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **21/09/2023.**

By Order of the Hon'ble Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit, Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 25787/2021

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa
...Plaintiff
AND :
Sri Manoj Kumar S
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Sri Manoj Kumar S
S/o Sri Venkataramanappa,
Aged about 36 years, No. 623, 4th Cross, 11th Main Road, Near Gandhi Park, Vijayanagara, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560 040

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 9,35,661/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty One Only)** together with interest @24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 26th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH- 20) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **31/10/2023** at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **09/10/2023.**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 26th ADDL' CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 25210/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400 051 and its branch office at Mythree Centre, # 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa
...Plaintiff
And
Sri Sateesh Ghattamaneni
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Sri Sateesh Ghattamaneni,
S/o Sri Hanumantharao Ghattamaneni,
Aged about 38 years,
No. 864, 8th Cross, Muniswamy Reddy Compound, Tulasi Theatre Road, Marthahalli, Bangalore- 560 037

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 6,63,337/- (Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Seven Only)** together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 26th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-20) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **04/11/2023** at **11.00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 09/10/2023

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

WANTED

PLC SCADA ENGINEER / TECHNICIAN:
Diploma / Degree holders having minimum 3 years experience in the programming and trouble shooting. Good communication skills are must.

SAFETY OFFICER:
Diploma/ Degree holders having Minimum 3 years experience and **IOSH/NEBOSH CERTIFIED.** Good communication skills are must

Send Resumes along with copies of certificates to yukonrecruitmenthr@gmail.com

TECHNICAL

WANTED

GK PLANNERS PVT LIMITED
ERODE , TAMIL NADU
Ph: 99652-66826, 97509-66826,
E-mail:gkplannerspri@gmail.com
CV s shall be sent to the above e -mail address not later than 27 th October , 2023.

Jr & Sr AUTO CADD CIVIL DRAFTSMAN cum 3D ELEVATION – **Qualification** – Diploma in civil (or) B.E.Civil

ARCHITECTS (or) SENIOR ARCHITECTS **Qualification** – Diploma in Arch(or)B.E. Arch/ M.E.Arch

STADD PRO ANALYSIS **Qualification** – B.E. / M.E.(Structural)

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Salary - Based on Knowledge & Experience

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State to notify architectural panel soon to monitor repair of temples

In the absence of a monitoring committee, many temples have lost their character during the restoration process

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

With several reported instances of architecture and heritage value of ancient temples in Karnataka being lost in reconstruction process, the State government will shortly notify an architectural committee that will monitor the repair and restoration process.

Currently, applications to repair and reconstruct about 50 notified temples are pending before the Muzrai Department. They have been put on hold for the last few months.

Currently, applications to repair and reconstruct about 50 notified temples are pending before the Muzrai Department. FILE PHOTO

Mandated by law

While the architectural committee is mandated under Section 69D of The Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997, which came into force in 2023, the committee has not been formed so far.

"From now on, permission will have to be sought from the architectural committee that will see whether repair or restoration is needed before permission is granted. The committee will ensure that the architectural value of the temple is not lost," Muzrai Commissioner H. Basavarajendra told *The Hindu*. He confirmed that he had kept about 50 applications that have come for approval in abeyance.

In all, 205 temples are classified as 'A' category temples, 195 as 'B' category temples and 34,151 temples are in 'C' category.

A majority of the 'C' category temples that are currently under poor maintenance are in rural areas.

Applications to renovate/repairs that are received from trusts/village committees by Muzrai Department are in 'C' category temples. Meanwhile, the Muzrai Department is also seeking to conduct a survey to ascertain the condition of the temples.

As per 69D of the Act, the architectural committee will have the superintending engineer of Architecture Department as the ex officio chairman. The chairman of Shilpakala Parishath, one Stapathi (sculptor), one Agama expert and one vastu expert will be the members of the committee besides experts who could be invited to offer their views.

The move to set up the committee instead of granting approval on ad hoc basis without getting into details has come to light of several temples, resulting in them losing their original character. "There was no restoration involved as temples were rebuilt. Entire structures have been dismantled and in many cases original stone carvings, columns, idols and other temple structure went missing after the reconstruction as villagers discarded them," Mr. Basavarajendra said.

According to him, from now on, each of the stone structure have to be documented and checked whether they can re used. "The main purpose is to protect the antiquity from being stolen," said the Commissioner.

Acknowledging that many ancient temples in rural areas have lost character in reconstruction, Karnataka State Muzrai Temples Archakas, Agamikas and Employees Association president Srivatsa said in several places, private trusts and committees in the name of restoration have taken over temples. According to him, more than 17,000 'C' category temples out of 34,151 temples require urgent repairs. There have been instances where ancient, abandoned temples have been taken over by vested interests that have installed an idol, he added.

Vision group to be set up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Dharmika Parishath has decided to set up a vision group comprising well-known people to bring overall development to temples in the State. According to Muzrai Commissioner H. Basavarajendra, the group could also help the government in bringing financial support to develop temples that require repair and restoration or technology that can improve services among other things.

Duo develop app that converts handwriting into speech to help people with disability

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Akshay V. Nayak and Karthik B.S., two BE graduates, once met a person who was struggling to speak after undergoing tracheostomy.

Manjappa, an ex-serviceman from Birur, often scribbled on a slate to convey what he wanted to say. This drove the young graduates to work on an application that could help people with speech and hearing impairment. And the result is Writell, an application that translates writing into speech.

"There are applications that convert typed text into speech. But our application, Writell, is a real-time handwriting-to-speech translation app, which makes communication accessible and inclusive," said Mr. Nayak, one of the app developers. The application helps convert handwriting in English, Kannada, and eight other Indian languages into speech.

Free Android app

The application was launched for Android users on September 21 for free. So far, around 700 people have downloaded it. "We are getting initial feedback from our target group. They are finding it useful and want it to include more options like recording the speech and sharing the same through other messaging applications. We are working on developing it further," said Karthik.

The app, developed by Akshay V. Nayak and Karthik B.S.. was launched for Android users on September 21 for free. SATHISH G.T.

> As of now, the gloves can translate common signs that speech and hearing impaired people use.
> **AKSHAY V. NAYAK**

Mr. Nayak and Mr. Karthik are residents of Shivamogga and were classmates while studying BE in Computer Sciences at NIE in Mysuru.

They completed the course in 2022. As students, they got a project sponsored by AI and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK), an organisation promoted by the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru to work on developing hand gloves that help convert sign language into speech.

Two others

With two other friends, Akshay Ganger and Sudhanva, they developed gloves with sensors that grasp the movement of hands.

The signs are converted into speech on the mobile linked to the gloves. "As of now, the gloves can translate common signs that speech and hearing impaired people use," said Mr. Nayak.

Launch of start-up

The duo completed the course and worked for IT companies before deciding to quit their jobs earlier this year to launch a start-up, Unriddled Technologies. Through the start-up, they released the mobile application. The young engineers also spent money from their own pockets to develop the application. "We quit our jobs to launch our own start-up. Our families stood by us. We are hopeful of getting good support for our work," said Mr. Nayak.

They spent many days with people affected by speech and hearing impairments in Mysuru and Bengaluru and other places to understand their requirements. They are hopeful that the app will reach many members of the community and help them communicate with others easily.

INBRIEF

KTR calls on Ponnala, invites ex-Cong. leader to join BRS

A day after senior Telangana Congress leader Ponnala Lakshmaiah quit the party, BRS working president and State Minister K.T. Rama Rao called on him in Hyderabad with a party delegation on Saturday and invited him to join it. Mr. Rama Rao said Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had assured to give the senior leader an appropriate position in the party. Mr. Lakshmaiah said he has agreed to meet the CM at Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday and stated he would spell out his stand after the meeting.

Amaravati lands: CID files two more pleas in A.P. High Court

The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (A.P.-CID) filed two more petitions before the High Court, praying to reopen the hearing in the quash petition related to Amaravati Assigned lands case and take the new evidence into consideration, according to government sources. This case was registered based on the report by YSRCP MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, alleging involvement of TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu and former Minister P. Narayana in the case.

Panel recommends 'cool environment' for Naidu in jail

A five-member committee comprising doctors of the GMC-Rajamahendravaram on Saturday recommended that former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu be kept in a "cool environment" citing his present state of health. Dr. Shiva Kumar, panel head, said that Mr. Naidu's health condition was stable. However, he was in need of a "cool environment", he said.

LDF turns arrival of first vessel at Vizhinjam into celebration

Kerala CM feels docking of the inaugural vessel will be a game-changer for Kerala's infrastructure; Vicar General of the Latin Catholic Church accuses the government of misleading the people

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Left Democratic Front has turned the arrival of the first project cargo vessel at the Vizhinjam International Seaport into an occasion for celebration with CPI(M) leaders, including State secretary M.V. Govindan and MLA V. Joy, leading a procession culminating in a public event at Vizhinjam ahead of the formal inauguration on Sunday.

However, Father Eugene Pereira, Vicar General of the Thiruvananthapuram Archdiocese of the Catholic Church (Latin rite), has struck a discordant note, accusing the government of misleading the people by celebrating the arrival of cranes required for the port as the arrival of the first ship, when only 60% of the port's work has been completed till now.

The Chinese ship with cranes berthed at Vizhinjam, in Thiruvananthapuram. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He made his displeasure clear at the government for including the name of the archbishop in the official programme notice without the Church's permission.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in a Facebook post, said the docking of the inaugural vessel *Zhen Hua 15* would be a game-changer for Kerala's infrastructure and development.

LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan asked everyone to join the celebrations without any political differences as it was a moment of pride in Kerala's developmental journey.

Ferry service to Sri Lanka is a blow to Lakshadweep

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The launch of a new ferry service between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka has the islanders of Lakshadweep feeling short-changed as it has further worsened their transportation woes.

The islanders had been clamouring for more passenger vessels for inter-island transport when *Cheriyapani,* a high-speed ferry with the capacity to carry 150 passengers, was taken out of service within the island group and launched for the ferry service connecting Sri Lanka.

"*Cheriyapani*," according to Mohammed Faizal, who is awaiting restoration of his Lok Sabha membership representing the Union Territory, "was one of the three high-speed vessels conducting inter-island ferry services besides occasionally conducting services to Kochi in the mainland. Together the three vessels had a capacity to carry 450 passengers. It's just *Valiyapani* and *Parali* now, with a combined capacity of 300 passengers. This is sure to further aggravate the transportation crisis faced by the islanders".

"The high-speed ferries are the ones that would ply to the farthest island in the group, Minicoy. These apart, there are just three intra-island ferries – each capable of carrying 50 passengers – operating in the island group. But they are not cleared to operate to the mainland or to Minicoy," said an islander on condition of anonymity.

The islanders have been up in arms about the erratic service of the five ships linking the island group with Kochi.

IMD issues yellow alert for 9 districts in Kerala

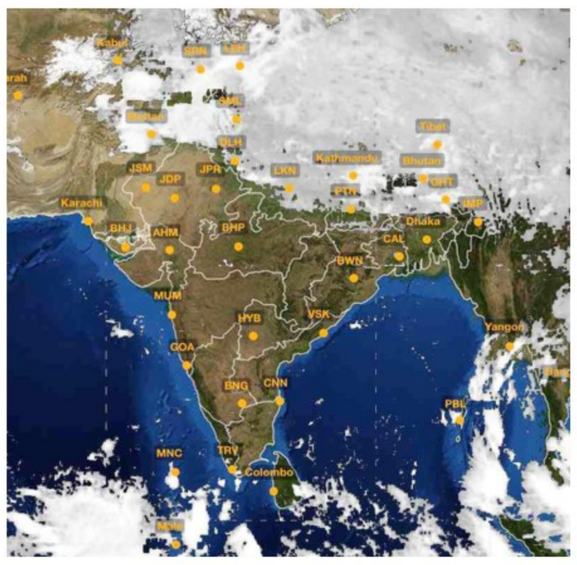
The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is likely to receive intense isolated showers for the next five days triggered by the weather systems over the Bay of Bengal. The IMD on Saturday said a cyclonic circulation lies over south Tamil Nadu.

A yellow alert has been issued for nine districts in Kerala – except Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Kannur, and Kasaragod – on Sunday, warning of heavy rains.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.4	23.8	Kozhikode	1	34.0	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	37.0	24.3	Kurnool	—	36.6	25.1
Aizawl	—	29.7	18.5	Lucknow	—	35.3	21.7
Allahabad	—	37.1	22.5	Madurai	1	32.2	24.1
Bengaluru	—	31.4	20.1	Mangaluru	—	31.2	24.9
Bhopal	—	36.7	20.5	Mumbai	—	34.8	25.8
Bhubaneswar	—	34.2	24.3	Mysuru	—	32.0	23.6
Chandigarh	—	33.6	19.6	New Delhi	—	36.5	21.1
Chennai	2	32.5	25.7	Patna	—	34.1	22.7
Coimbatore	—	34.4	24.0	Port Blair	0.2	31.3	24.8
Dehradun	—	31.5	17.2	Puducherry	1.7	30.2	25.2
Gangtok	8	18.3	14.4	Pune	—	34.6	19.5
Goa	1	33.1	24.2	Raipur	—	34.6	24.0
Guwahati	—	32.0	23.8	Ranchi	—	31.7	19.8
Hubballi	—	33.0	23.0	Shillong	—	22.7	12.8
Hyderabad	—	32.9	22.0	Shimla	—	21.4	13.3
Imphal	—	29.3	18.1	Srinagar	0.4	17.3	12.0
Jaipur	—	35.8	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	48	31.4	23.7
Kochi	—	29.8	24.2	Tiruchi	—	32.3	25.6
Kohima	1	20.0	14.6	Vijayawada	—	33.2	25.0
Kolkata	—	35.6	24.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.12	180	.41	...254	...193	
Bengaluru	.11	..—	.41	...101	...142	
Chennai	...3	119	.74	17	31	
Delhi	.29	367	.28	...201	...263	
Hyderabad	...5	..77	.43	...115	...116	
Kolkata	.16	..31	.20	...156	...120	
Lucknow	...4	..20	.50	...278	...206	
Mumbai	.25	..33	.84	...279	...250	
Pune	133	222	113	...181	...116	
Visakhapatnam	.12	..63	.26	...130	...188	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 321 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Silchar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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Oggarane Dabbi Murali & Suchitra Muralidhar

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Videocon d2h - 2621
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Presenting Partner: Gold Winner
Co Presented by: RKG AGMARK GHEE
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From Page One

Ferry to Sri Lanka plies after 40 years

Calling it a new chapter in diplomatic and economic ties between India and Sri Lanka, Mr. Modi said the ferry service will help strengthen cultural, commercial, and civilisational ties between the two nations. Connectivity was the central theme of the joint vision of the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership, Mr. Modi said, adding that India would take steps to resume the operation of the ferry service between Rameswaram and Talaimannar as well.

'Important step for connectivity'

Mr. Wickremesinghe said this was an important step in improving connectivity between the two nations. People of both countries have travelled across the Palk Strait for many years, he said and added that the ferry services operated in the past were suspended due to the civil war in Sri Lanka.

The operation of the ferry service will strengthen cultural ties between Tamil Nadu and the northern province of Sri Lanka, said Mr. Sonowal and added that given the proximity of Nagapattinam to various places of religious significance, including Thirunallar, Nagore, and Velankanni, it would ease the travel of pilgrims from the island nation.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who addressed the event virtually, said the launch affirmed the "neighbourhood first" policy of India. Further, it would help improve cooperation in disaster management, maritime security, and ease of business between the two nations.

Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Aviation of Sri Lanka, and Gopal Baglay, Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, witnessed the inaugural ceremony virtually.

The Shipping Corporation of India has roped in a private agency to sell tickets.

Sikkim's fallen dam haunts India's dreams

The CEA note on Puna-I, started in 2008 and expected to be commissioned in 2024-25, said: "Project commissioning is being delayed due to movement/subsidence of right bank hill mass in the dam area. Treatment/stabilisation of the right bank and completion of dam work under progress. The option of providing a barrage in the upstream and abandoning of the dam is being studied."

On the Puna-II, targeted for commissioning in 2023-24, the note said: "Poor geological strata and shear zone being encountered at left bank and foundation of dam and HRT [head race tunnel, a tunnel connecting water intake at dam site to power house for generation of hydro electricity]. Remedial measures are under progress."

Experts weigh in

According to the CEA, the HRT for Puna-I was completed in June 2015, while 99.53% of the dam excavation and 98.05% of the underground powerhouse have been completed. In the case of Puna-II, 99.73% of the HRT and 97.49% of the concrete dam have been completed.

An Assam-based hydrologist, under condition of anonymity, said the rethink on the two Puna projects is likely to entail an expensive design change. Pushing for dams reflects the failure of several Indian agencies in comprehensively assessing the fragile Himalayan geology, similar to Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh flanking Bhutan.

These agencies are the Central Water Commission, the Geological Survey of India, and WAPCOS, apart from the CEA. Earlier known as Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, WAPCOS is a consultancy service provider under the administrative control of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

"Punatsangchhu has been a story of disaster with international landslide experts like Dave Petley having pointed out it was a blunder to start a dam at the location that seems to be on the debris of past landslides," environmental activist and water expert Himanshu Thakkar said.

'Some FCRA-listed NGOs fail to show the right area of work'

Official numbers reveal only a part of the picture, as some organisations that have faith-based underpinnings are registered under other categories; Home Minister says that the amendments to the Act in 2020 prevented the misuse of funding

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Over the past nine years, of the 407 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that got approval from the Union government to receive foreign funds for religious purposes, 194 showed they ran Christian programmes, show data available with the Union Home Ministry.

However, there are several NGOs that have not listed religion as at least one of their purposes, but are perceived to be working in that space. For instance, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness is registered as a social organisation in Maharashtra and a religious one in Delhi. Its affiliate, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, is an educational and social organisation. Seva Bharati, the NGO affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, is a social, cultural, and educational organisation in different States.

Registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, is mandatory to receive donations from outside India. For this, the NGO or association must have a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious, or social programme, and can register under multiple categories. While the Act aims at regulating both the "acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality", it can also prohibit organisations from taking in these funds for "any activities detrimental to the national interest...".

In 2020, the Home Ministry granted FCRA registration to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, enabling it to receive foreign donations. AFP

In 2023, the four FCRA registrations cancelled on grounds of violation are all of Christian organisations: Shekina Prophetic Mission Trust (Tamil Nadu), Holy Berachah Ministries (Karnataka), and Kashmir Evangelical Fellowship and Bethel Charitable Trust (both Jammu and Kashmir). The last two were stripped of FCRA registration amid allegations of religious conversion and building churches in the Jammu region with the funds.

Ministry data show that 3,217 associations were granted fresh registration from 2014 to October 1 this year. A breakdown of the categories shows that 194 NGOs were registered under "religious-Christian", 139 under "religious-Hindu", 25 under Muslims, 29 Buddhist, 10 Sikh, and 29 others. Most NGOs were registered with multiple programmes including religious. In 2023, out of 69 fresh registrations granted under the religious category, 26 were to a Christian programme and 27 to a Hindu agenda. Of these, three each were registered only under Christian and Hindu programmes.

The Ministry's annual report of 2020-21 showed that nearly 50% registration requests were denied that year. From April 1 to December 31, 2020, the Ministry granted registration to 127 but declined registration to 607 NGOs. Similarly, from April 1 to December 31, 2022, while 51 NGOs were granted FCRA registration, 153 were declined the registration.

As on September 29, there were 16,686 NGOs with active FCRA registration in India. The Ministry informed the Lok Sabha in March that in the past five years, it has cancelled the registration of 1,827 NGOs.

'More difficult'

Civil society groups have said that FCRA provisions were being used to stifle the non-profit sector. In July, a group of former civil servants called the Civil Constitutional Group wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah saying, "It seems as though, using the FCRA, the Government of India seeks to deter civil society organisations from seeking funding from foreign sources, although such access to foreign funds, through other legally sanctioned means, is freely available to the private sector, digital and print media and political parties."

A senior functionary associated with a leading non-profit said on condition of anonymity, that it has become more difficult for donors and NGOs that do not have the blessings of the government to survive. "Civil society is the target," the functionary said.

On Friday, Mr. Shah said that the FCRA nod was one of the several steps taken by the Narendra Modi government for the welfare of the Sikh community. In 2020, the Ministry granted FCRA registration to Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, enabling it to receive foreign donations.

Earlier this month, the Ministry brought out a fresh set of rules asking NGOs to declare moveable and immoveable assets created out of foreign contributions. The 2020 amendments to the Act included a complete ban on domestic transfer of foreign funds, reduction of administrative expense limit from 50% to 20%, opening of a designated FCRA account with the State Bank of India branch in Delhi, and recording of Aadhaar of all key functionaries.

On October 27, 2022, Mr. Shah said at the State Home Ministers' Conference in Faridabad that the amendments to the FCRA in 2020 had successfully prevented the misuse of foreign funding and effective monitoring had become possible.

Agniveer died from 'self-inflicted injury': Army

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Army on Saturday said Amritpal Singh, an Agniveer, died on October 11 from a self-inflicted injury due to which no guard of honour or military funeral was provided to him, in accordance with the existing policy.

A video of the last rites being conducted by the family of Singh has gone viral on X (formerly Twitter), drawing sharp comments and criticism from veterans and the public on how Agniveers are not getting the honour given to regular soldiers.

"In an unfortunate incident, Agniveer Amritpal Singh died while on sentry duty in Rajouri Sector due to a self-inflicted gunshot injury. Court of Inquiry to ascertain more details is in progress," the Army's Nagrota-based 16 Corps said in a statement on social media.

The mortal remains of the deceased, accompanied by one Junior Commissioned Officer and four other ranks, were transported in a civil ambulance hired by the Agniveer unit, it said.

Expressing shock, Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa of the Congress urged Punjab Chief Minister to announce at least ₹1 crore as *ex-gratia* assistance for the next of kin of the deceased as they are not entitled to pension and other benefits.

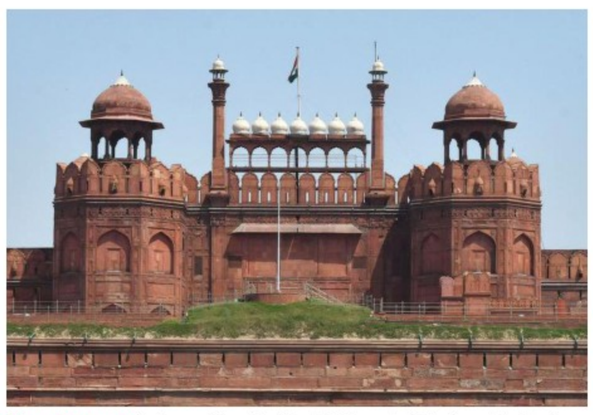
Red Fort to host India's maiden art, architecture and design biennale

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Come December, the national capital's iconic Red Fort will house for a week, replicas of some landmark Indian buildings and structures such as the new Indian Parliament, the Velankanni railway station and Shalimar Bagh in Srinagar as part of the country's maiden art, architecture and design biennale.

The India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale, 2023 (IAADB), being organised by the Union Culture Ministry from December 9 to 15, is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The week-long festival will see each day built around a uniquely conceptualised theme which will be complemented by exclusively curated exhibitions.



Grand venue: A view of the Red Fort in New Delhi where the India Art, Architecture & Design Biennale will be held. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The exhibitions have been designed in both physical and digital forms for an immersive experience accompanied by interactive installations.

A coffee table book would be brought out on each theme with 75 items each marking the 75 years of Indian Independence, sources in the Culture Ministry told *The Hindu*.

The themes are Doors of India, Gardens of India, *Baolis* (step-wells) of India, Temples of India, Architectural Wonders of Independent India, Indigenous Design and Women in Architecture and Design.

Apart from the exhibition, panel discussions and interactive sessions with audiences to make them aware of India's built heritage will be held.

The entire exhibition is being curated by the National Gallery of Modern Art along with the National Council of Science Museums, Archaeological Survey of India, Lalit Kala Akademi, Council of Architecture and the outreach department of the Ministry of Education.

The biennale will also be an introduction to the cultural space at the Red Fort.

Manipur court issues arrest warrant against Meitei Leepun chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pramot Singh has been accused of making inflammatory statements against the community

A court in Manipur has issued a non-bailable warrant for the arrest and production of Meitei Leepun chief Pramot Singh in a case registered against him by the Churachandpur police in June for allegedly promoting enmity between communities and making statements prejudicial to national integration.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate of Churachandpur issued the warrant on October 9 after the police submitted that they had not been able to go to Imphal West, where Mr. Singh is believed to be located, due to the ongoing ethnic conflict. The Churachandpur police said they had requested the jurisdictional police in Imphal West district to act but did not receive any response. A reminder with a request for a house search in the Lamphel area also went unanswered. The police added that a notice was also served on the accused under Section 41a of the Code of Criminal Procedure, but there was no response.

Throughout the past five months of ethnic conflict, Mr. Singh's Meitei Leepun has been accused of amassing mobs to attack Kuki-Zo villages and neighbourhoods. In the early weeks of the conflict, there were allegations that members of Meitei Leepun and another similar outfit, Arambai Tenggol, were involved in the looting of police armouries.

Mr. Singh has been accused of making inflammatory statements against the Kuki-Zo community on several occasions on social media and in interviews with the media, even amid the ongoing conflict.

The case for which a warrant has now been issued was registered under Sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc.), 153B (statements prejudicial to national integration), 500 (punishment for defamation), and 505 (statements conducing public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Churachandpur police station in June. Another first information report (FIR) was registered against Mr. Singh at the Kangpokpi police station under Sections 120B, 153A, 504, 505, 506 and 34 of the IPC, which pertain to criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language and so on, act prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, public mischief, and punishment for criminal intimidation with common intention.

'Not bothered'

At the time this FIR was reported in the press, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that he was not aware of any case against him and that he was "not bothered". The Kangpokpi FIR was registered on a complaint filed by the Kuki Students' Organisation, which mentioned an interview that Mr. Singh gave to *The Wire* on June 7 in which he said that "Kukis are outsiders who are not indigenous to Manipur".

'A journey of unity, patriotism, and adventure'

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

"It turned out to be a journey of unity, patriotism, and adventure," said Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal, Director of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), who led the Har Shikhar Tiranga Mission, an expedition to hoist the National Flag on the highest peak of every State in India.

The campaign was supported by the Defence Ministry and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and was flagged off by the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pema Khandu from the NIMAS Campus in Dirang. The team, consisting of 20 members (10 Army personnel and 10 civilians), scaled 28 mountains in a year, with the expedition lasting from October 2, 2022 to the same date in 2023. In all, there were six mountaineers who had scaled Mount Everest, including Tsewang Chosgail, Kewal Krishan, Nehpal, Dorjee Khandu, and Tongchen.

Shikar Tiranga national team, saluting the National Flag after hoisting it atop Arma Konda on September 4. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Col. Jamwal, who has scaled Mt. Everest thrice, and was the recipient of the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in 2013, said the just-concluded expedition was a part of the larger Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, commemorating 75 years of Indian Independence. The mission had many aims: to showcase India's high-altitude diversity to the world, to promote adventure and environmental awareness, and to spread the message of the national flag.

Col. Jamwal spoke of how people supported the expedition across States. A few locals even joined in scaling the peaks. They were warmly welcomed by students and the local administration wherever they went. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitharamaraju district, where they hoisted the flag atop Arma Konda, at 1,680 metres, the team was felicitated at the Government Junior College in Hukumpeta. Many people provided accommodation and food, and some arranged felicitation meetings in huge gatherings.

Col. Jamwal said the challenge was to locate the highest points of all States. The research, listing of peaks and their recce, planning and training, taking required permission, was done across three months. Each peak had unique climatic conditions and the team faced challenges of extreme weather conditions from temperatures as low as -20-degrees centigrade and zero visibility, to navigation issues due to poor connectivity, heavy rain, avalanches, steep and slippery terrain, humidity, leeches, and the fear of wild animals. They also encountered unavailability of transportation in some areas, poor roads in many remote areas, security challenges in Naxal-affected areas and language barriers.

On the roll-out of the mission, Col. Jamwal, who has 30 mountaineering expeditions across seven continents to his credit, said the first phase started in October 2022 and ended in December 2022. This saw the scaling of the highest peaks in all the north-eastern States.

In the second phase, the team unfurled the National Flag on Mt. Reo Purgyil at an elevation of 6,818 metres, in the Spiti valley, on May 22.

The remaining States were covered in the third phase, with Mt. Jongsong, 7,462 metres, in Sikkim done in the final stage on October 02. "The mission which started as a mountaineering expedition to spread awareness of the National Flag and the highest peaks turned out as a nationwide movement resonating with the mutual feelings of the masses for the motherland," Col. Jamwal said.

The team, now on their way back to Dirang, will reach here on October 17, after which a formal flag-in ceremony will be held.

Coast Guard saves ailing Chinese crew member

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Saturday rescued a 49-year-old Chinese national suffering from a "stroke" combined with "hemiplegia" from a Panama-flagged ship off the Mumbai coast, the office of the defence spokesperson said.

"ICG carried out a successful medical evacuation of a Chinese crew onboard Panama-flagged vessel *MT Hua Wei 8* off Mumbai coast on October 14. The ICG Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Mumbai, the maritime search and rescue coordinator on the Indian Western Coast, had received a request from the vessel for medical evacuation of a 49-year old Chinese crew due to non-availability of the tug, late on October 13," officials said.

Hemiplegia is one-sided muscle paralysis or weakness. It is usually a symptom of a brain-related condition. The vessel was on its voyage from New Mangalore to Bin Qasim, Pakistan and was in position 122 nautical miles from Mumbai.

Considering the critical status of the patient, ICG ship *C-439* was deployed for his medical evacuation. The ICG evacuated the patient and disembarked him at Mumbai harbour.

Modi govt. has failed to mitigate problems faced by women: Sonia

Centre has turned women into symbols in a patriarchal framework, she says and urges parties belonging to INDIA bloc to take urgent steps to make women's equality a reality; Priyanka calls for immediate implementation of women's quota Act

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Joining hands: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the Women's Rights Conference organised by the DMK's women's wing in Chennai on Saturday. From left: Bihar Minister Leshi Singh, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, DMK leader Kanimozhi, NCP leader Supriya Sule, SP leader Dimple Yadav, and CPI leader Annie Raja. AKHILA EASWARAN

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Saturday said that instead of mitigating the problems faced by women, the past nine years had seen a sustained effort by the Modi government to turn women purely into symbols, to be counted and appreciated only in their restricted traditional roles in a patriarchal framework.

Addressing the Women's Right Conference organised here by DMK MP Kanimozhi to commemorate the birth centenary of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, Ms. Gandhi said that just as in every other frontier of rights, freedoms, equity, and equality, even among women, all the remarkable gains of the past 70 years had disappeared.

While Tamil Nadu had achieved the most impressive maternal and infant mortality rate through initiatives such as the mid-day meal programme, the promotion of women's empowerment, and the encouragement of female education, these efforts and programmes had not been reflected at the national level. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin also took part in the event.

"I am confident that we, the like-minded parties of the INDIA alliance, can and will take the urgent steps needed to make women's equality a reality," Ms. Gandhi said.

She also made a strong case for advancing from the tendency to see "women as mothers, sisters and daughters and the relationships as the foundation of family life and society" to enable women to reach a status where they are seen as individuals who are equal in all respects in life, in work, and in status. "That is our goal and that is what we must fight for," Ms. Gandhi said.

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who addressed a public gathering in Tamil Nadu for the first time, demanded immediate implementation of women's reservation in Parliament and Assemblies. "We, the women of India, have no more time to waste. It is our right to be counted in the political process. I demand that our worth is valued and respected as a political instrument for our own empowerment," she said.

Ms. Priyanka also urged women to put an end to the glorification of their tolerance for injustices committed against them day after day and reject any system, societal, religious or political, which thrived on oppression and forced them to collude with it.

Former CPI(M) MP Subhashini Ali said that in the past nine years, the BJP government had tried to destroy the Constitution and replace it with laws of the *Manusmriti*. Leshi Singh, Food and Consumer Protection Minister of Bihar; Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav, Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule; and National Federation of Indian Women general secretary Annie Raja were among those who spoke at the event.

Emotional Priyanka

Ms. Priyanka turned emotional and recalled the day, 30 years ago, when she visited Tamil Nadu to receive the body of her father, Rajiv Gandhi, who had been assassinated by the LTTE.

She said she had walked towards her mother that night knowing that the words she was to speak would break her heart. "Yet I spoke, and I watched as the light of happiness was extinguished from her eyes forever," she said.

INBRIEF

RLJD urges Bihar Governor to review caste survey report

Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal (RLJD) president Upendra Kushwaha on Saturday went on a march towards the Raj Bhavan in Bihar to protest against the caste survey report. A memorandum was submitted to Governor Rajendra Arlekar seeking a review of the report. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Kushwaha alleged that the report published by the State government was not only "impractical" but also a deep conspiracy by Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar against some castes belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBC).

Opposition protests teacher recruitment policy in Gujarat

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has begun *Yuva Adhikar Yatra* on Friday from Dandi to Ahmedabad to protest against the recruitment of assistant teachers on a fixed pay basis for government and grants-in-aid schools in Gujarat. This follows a sit-in organised by the Congress, the principal Opposition party in the State, in which it asked, "It is an exploitative scheme. Why is the government not hiring teachers for a full-time job through regular recruitment process?". The teachers unions, as well as the Congress and the AAP, have been opposing the new recruitment policy.

'Will intensify stir if Maratha quota is not given by Oct. 24'

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil on Saturday threatened to intensify his agitation after October 24 if the Maharashtra government fails to provide reservation to the community in jobs and education. Addressing a gathering at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district, he said that after October 24, it would be either his "funeral procession or the Maratha community's victory celebration". The Jalna-based activist recently undertook an indefinite hunger strike on the issue and called it off after Chief Minister Eknath Shinde promised to fulfil all demands.

LJP factions battle for Hajipur seat in 2024 Lok Sabha polls

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

In 2019, Ram Vilas Paswan fielded his brother Pashupati Kumar Paras for the Hajipur seat

The intra-family war of words over the Hajipur Lok Sabha seat is getting shriller by the day.

Just two days after Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan said that it would be easier to win if his mother Reena Paswan contested the seat, his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras countered, saying on Saturday that if Mr. Paswan wanted to field his mother for the Hajipur seat, he too would put up someone from his family to contest the Jamui seat.

Mr. Paswan is the MP for Jamui.

Retaining legacy

The late Ram Vilas Paswan – Mr. Chirag Paswan's father and Mr. Paras' elder brother – had represented the Hajipur seat in the Lok Sabha eight times, making it his personal stronghold. In the 2019 election, he fielded Mr. Paras for the seat, in a move to retain his political and electoral legacy. After the senior Mr. Paswan died in October 2020, however, his Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) was split into the two parties now led by his son and brother.

Asked whether there would be a contest for the Hajipur seat, Mr. Paras asserted, "There will be no contest at all. I'm the permanent and trustworthy ally of the NDA. But there is no guarantee whether [Chirag Paswan] will remain in the NDA tomorrow or not."

Mr. Paras had earlier said, "In 2019, when my late brother Ram Vilas Paswan went to the Rajya Sabha, he asked me to contest the Lok Sabha seat from Hajipur and now I'm the natural claimant of the seat, not Chirag Paswan."

Om Birla slams EU Parliament for raising India's internal issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, in a bilateral meeting with the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Nicola Beer, on Saturday, registered his protest against the raising of India's internal issues in the EU Parliament.

"He insisted that every nation and Parliament is sovereign and their internal issues should not be discussed by others," a statement from the Lok Sabha Secretariat said.

Though the statement did not make any reference to any particular internal issue, sources told *The Hindu* that Mr. Birla's reference was to the July resolution of the EU Parliament that discussed the violence between Meitis and Kukis in Manipur.

Then, India had said that the move by the EU Parliament reflected a "colonial mindset".

During his valedictory address to the Parliamentary Speakers Summit (P-20) of G-20 countries, Mr. Birla had said that no issue can be seen in isolation in an interconnected world as several leaders talked about the West Asia conflict and other geopolitical issues.

Om Birla with Arthur César Pereira de Lira after handing over the baton on successful completion of India's P-20 Summit . ANI

"Many members mentioned the situation in West Asia, while some others talked about strengthening multilateralism, the need to encourage international trade and the need for resilient supply chains. I have noted these references carefully. In today's inter-connected world, we cannot look at any issue in isolation," Mr. Birla said in his closing statement.

The Speaker pointed out that paragraph 27 of the Joint Statement talked about pursuing parliamentary diplomacy for international peace.

"We will continue to engage in parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue in relevant fora as a catalyst for promoting international peace, prosperity and harmony, including supporting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and disputes," read the Joint Statement adopted on Friday.

New presidency

Stating that the adoption of the Joint Statement has strengthened the P-20 process, Mr. Birla handed over the P-20 presidency to the President of Brazil's Chamber of Deputies, Arthur Cesar Pereira de Lira, as Brazil will hold the G-20 presidency next year.

Apart from the EU, Mr. Birla also held bilateral meetings with the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as well as the presiding officers of Russia, Singapore, Turkey, the Netherlands, South Africa and Mexico.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar hosted the delegates of the P-20 Summit that successfully concluded here on Saturday. The two-day P-20 Summit was inaugurated on Friday by PM Narendra Modi, who mentioned the world grappling with conflict and stressed the need to move through peace.

Supporters turn up at Raje's house in show of solidarity

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Days after several of her loyalists were denied BJP ticket for the November 25 Rajasthan Assembly election, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje received support from a section of the party workers, who gathered at her residence here on Saturday.

Amid signs of Ms. Raje being marginalised within the party, her supporters met her, raised slogans hailing her as their leader and assured her of their solidarity with her political moves in future. The gathering was perceived as an attempt to get ticket for the leaders close to her in the upcoming lists of candidates.

Miffed aspirants

The first list comprising 41 candidates, released on October 9, did not have the names of several aspirants considered staunch supporters of Ms. Raje. Some of them are reportedly looking at contesting as Independent candidates in the constituencies which they have served for long.

While former Ministers Narpat Singh Rajvi and Rajpal Singh Shekhawat have expressed their displeasure at denial of ticket from their seats in Jaipur district, Ms. Raje's loyalists Anita Singh and Bhawani Singh Rajawat have announced their plans to fight the polls as Independents from Nagar (Bharatpur) and Ladpura (Kota).

The BJP's indecisive approach on Ms. Raje's precise role in the election - after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the party symbol, lotus, would be its only face in the State - is likely to create difficulties for the official candidates. Ms. Raje's supporters in almost every Assembly constituency are set to challenge the selection of nominees.

Ms. Raje, a five-time MP, has so far refrained from issuing any official statement in the matter, though she said at a meeting of the BJP's core committee here

Vasundhara Raje

on Friday that the party workers should get preference in the upcoming lists of candidates. She also said that the party rebels who fought the 2018 election as well as the leaders who had recently shifted from the Congress to the BJP should not be given ticket.

The ticket aspirants who could not make it to the party's first list have raised a banner of revolt mainly in the seven seats where sitting MPs have been fielded. The party workers say that the MPs were "parachute candidates" brought in without considering the dynamics in the constituencies and without consulting the local leaders.

Political analysts in Rajasthan have wondered if Ms. Raje, waiting to come to the party's mainstream for the last five years, would maintain silence even after the release of second list of candidates. Senior party leaders such as Arun Singh, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Chandrashekhar, Vijaya Rahatkar and Satish Poonia, have spoken to the ticket claimants who voiced their resentment.

Rise of Diya Kumari

While Ms. Raje's supporters are apprehensive of her political irrelevance during the electoral battle, the gradual rise of Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari - fielded as the BJP candidate from Vidyadhar Nagar in Jaipur - has led to speculations that she could be considered a chief ministerial candidate if the party wins. Ms. Raje was projected as the CM face in the 2003 Assembly poll and was appointed the State's first woman Chief Minister.

FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Under Government of India, Ministry of Heavy Industries)
Kanjikode West, Palakkad, Kerala - 678623
Notification No. FCRI/12/2022-23/PO/01 Date of Notification: 24.07.2023
CORRIGENDUM - 001 - Dated: 15 September 2023
Last date for submitting applications online extended to 30th October 2023.
RECRUITMENT BY DEPUTATION BASIS

Name of Post	No. of Posts [Category]	Scale of Pay	Age Limit	Tenure
Personnel Officer	1 [General]	Pay Level 10 in the Pay Matrix	56 Years	3 Years

For details on Qualifications / Experience criteria and Application, visit recruit.fcriindia.com.

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https:/etenders.kerala.gov.in.or www.kmml.com

No	E-Tender ID	Items
1.	2023_KMML_611423_1	For the supply of Paint and Thinner
2.	2023_KMML_608968_1	For the supply of Plate Inconel 600-3mm thick -310 kg
3.	2023_KMML_611338_1	For fabrication & supply of Water Cooled Condenser E206A
4.	2023_KMML_611340_1	For the supply of Brick Acid Resistant for Digester
5.	2023_KMML_612437_1	For supply of 1088 MT of Aluminium Trihydrate
6.	2023_KMML_608105_1	Overhauling and revamping of the cooling tower cells in our premises of TP Unit at the Titanium Dioxide Pigment Unit
7.	2023_KMML_612826_1	For the supply of Poly Aluminium Chloride grade commercial SAB-18 for TP Unit,KMML
8.	2023_KMML_613076_1	Control system & instrumentation package for Magnesium Recycling Plant (MRP) Project at The Titanium Sponge Plant (TSP), KMML.

Chavara. 13.10.2023 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai, Egmore
Tender Notice No. E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-7-2023-24 Dt:12.10.2023
For and on behalf of the President of India the Dy Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/ S. Rly/ Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following works.
Name of work: Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of HT 11kV, 3 Core 120 Sq.mm UG Cable betweenAdambakkam and St.Thomas Mount stations, Provision of LED Signage Board. Improvements to LED Lighting arrangements and Residual works in Velachery - St.Thomas Mount section under MRTS PH-II Extension.

1 Period of completion	Nine months
2 Approximate cost of work	Rs.3,08,47,319.96
3 Cost of tender form	Nil
4 Earnest Money deposited	Rs. 3,04,200/-
5 Tender closing date	03.11.2023

Complete details can be seen www.ireps.gov.in.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai, Egmore
Tender Notice No. E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-8-2023-24 Dt:13.10.2023
For and on behalf of the President of India the Dy Chief Electrical Engineer/ General/ Construction/Southern Railway/ Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following works.
Name of work: New Railway Hospital - Southern Railway - Perambur - Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Centralized Air-Conditioning system for patients waiting area in OPD Block.

1 Period of completion	6 months
2 Approximate cost of work	Rs.1,39,44,872.49
3 Cost of tender form	Nil
4 Earnest Money deposit (EMD)	Rs. 2,19,700.00
5 Tender closing date & time	06.11.2023 at 11.00 AM
6 Tender Opening date & time	06.11.2023 at 11.30 AM

Complete details can be seen www.ireps.gov.in.
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INBRIEF

More chartered flights likely to bring Indians from Israel

The third batch of 197 Indian nationals wanting to leave Israel amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict started on a special flight on Saturday, hours before the Israeli military said it is ready for a "coordinated" offensive in the Gaza Strip. The flights are part of 'Operation Ajay'. More chartered flights are expected to be pressed into the task over the next few days. SpiceJet has joined the Central government's operation. The airline will utilise its Airbus A340 wide-body aircraft. Flight SG9995, designated as the evacuation flight, took off from Amritsar for Tel Aviv Saturday evening.

CBI arrests 2 in fake passport case, searches 50 places

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested a Gangtok-based Passport Seva Laghu Kendra (PSLK) official and an agent for their alleged involvement in the issuance of passports to "non-residents" of India on the basis of forged documents. The agency raided nearly 50 locations across West Bengal and Sikkim. PSLK Senior Superintendent Goutam Kumar Saha and agent Dipu Chetri have been arrested in the case and a total of 24 persons have been named as accused. The agency seized from the Senior Superintendent ₹1.9 lakh in cash, which he had received from the agent in Siliguri. Subsequently, an additional sum of ₹3.08 lakh was found from his official premises.

Video shows man carrying wife's body for cremation

A video showing a young man carrying the body of his wife on his shoulders to Prayagraj for cremation, went viral on social media on Saturday. Opposition leaders in Uttar Pradesh said the video showed society's insensitivity and exposed the economic inequality in the country. The residents identified the man as Nakhad. His wife, Anita, 26, had been unwell for several days and died on Friday owing to lack of treatment, fellow villagers said. The video shows the man tying his wife's body on his shoulders using bamboo, with the help of his father-in-law. He then walked five kilometres. Later, a few people arranged an e-rickshaw and took the body for cremation at the Daraganj Ghat.

ED attaches assets belonging to Mukhtar Ansari and others

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties estimated at ₹73.43 lakh under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against former Uttar Pradesh MLA Mukhtar Ansari and others, said the agency on Saturday. The ED alleged that Ansari usurped government land and built a warehouse on it and later rented the warehouse to Food Corporation of India Limited. The attached properties include land measuring 1,538 sq. ft in Ghazipur district and a commercial building constructed over it; and another plot of land measuring 6,020 sq. ft in Mau.

SUDOKU

5		8			7	2		9
					9			
2						6		1
8	7		2	5				
3	1						5	2
				9	3		1	8
1		6						7
			7					
9		7	5			1		3

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	8	6	9	4	7	3	5
9	6	5	3	7	8	4	2	1
7	4	3	2	5	1	8	9	6
1	8	6	9	4	3	2	5	7
3	5	9	1	2	7	6	4	8
4	2	7	5	8	6	9	1	3
5	7	2	8	3	9	1	6	4
8	9	1	4	6	5	3	7	2
6	3	4	7	1	2	5	8	9

Uttar Pradesh warms to the grandeur of Durga Puja

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Azad Murtikar, 36, in Kanpur has been a busy man for the past few months, what with the deadline pressures he faces thanks to an increased demand for Durga idols for the upcoming puja festivities.

"This year, the demand was huge. We made 350-odd Durga idols, sized between two feet and 12 feet. Most of the orders were from Uttar Pradesh," said Mr. Murtikar, who leads a group of 40 workers and runs the Baba Shiv Murti Kala Kendra.

Mr. Murtikar, who has been in the trade of making such sculptures for the past two decades, says that in the past few years, there has been a growing demand for such Durga idols in Uttar Pradesh apart from the usual demand from West Bengal and other parts where he used to supply these items. He takes the help of workers who mostly hails from West Bengal.

Asked what is leading to the increasing demand, he said, "There is a change in people's outlook as festivals such as Durga Puja which used to be celebrated in a low scale across Uttar Pradesh are now being celebrated widely and with great elan."

The group designs Durga idols for all nine forms of the deity, made up of materials such as natural and polymer clay or polystyrene with a price range from ₹1,500 to ₹40,000.

Making a comeback

In Uttar Pradesh, at the Gorakhpur railway station, artists from West Bengal are making idols after a gap of 22 years. These will be showcased in the Bakshipur locality and the nearby Kaptanganj town.

"Our slot for musical performance on most of the days in the puja are booked. With the Internet taking centre stage, no festival remained confined to a State, it is true for the Durga Puja also," said Ravi Kant, who leads a Gonda-based Jai Maa Ambe Musical group.

Members of the Bengali community say puja festivities have gained prominence in the past few years. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Members of the Bengali community, some of whom have been residents of Uttar Pradesh for several decades now, agreed that the puja festivities have gained prominence in the State in the past few years.

"Yes, the Puja is now celebrated on a much larger scale even outside the Bengali community, with a localised and perhaps a more 'Hinduised' flavour," said Mrinal Roy, who originally hails from West Bengal, but has been residing in Lucknow for more than three decades.

Asked what he means by a 'Hinduised flavour', he explains, "We previously had stalls of mutton, fish and chicken chops, and nobody would object to them. But nowadays, societies ask us to remove them. For many among us [of Bengali descendant], it continues to be a cultural celebration, whereas in Uttar Pradesh it is becoming more of a religious celebration," added Mr. Roy, who is a social activist.

Mission Shakti

The Uttar Pradesh government chose October 14 for launching the fourth phase of Mission Shakti, an integrated empowerment programme for the safety, security, and empowerment of women on *Shardiya Navaratri*, highlighting the symbolism attached to the Durga Puja with respect to women.

It has also planned different initiatives for women from all walks of life including government employees in the fourth phase.

"Rural women will be ensured economic self-reliance by connecting them with self-help groups, while in urban areas, enhancing the skills of women and linking them with employment opportunities with an aim to connect 8,97,380 families with self-help groups, ensuring their social and economic self-reliance by engaging them in livelihood activities. Moreover, efforts will be made to identify widowed, helpless, abandoned, and destitute women and help them find employment with the assistance of social workers," the Uttar Pradesh government said, while briefing about the fourth phase of Mission Shakti to start around Durga Puja.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held meetings with senior officials instructing them to make all preparations for the launch during the puja, and issued directions for the convenience of devotees during the festival along with guidelines for fire safety in Durga Pandals across the State.

Street vendors feel vulnerable after COVID, despite govt. loans

The Prime Minister Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi offered them some support, but representatives from the community say that it does not match the distress they faced at the time, as most are from marginalised groups

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

After meeting with an accident, Pawan, a former electrician, set up a chow mein stall in the overcrowded Sundar Nagri area of north-east Delhi. When the COVID-19 lockdowns hit, he had to wind up his business. With no job and income, trade unions helped him to get a loan of ₹10,000 in 2022 from the Prime Minister Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi). He now sells vegetables from a cart. "I have to take care of a family of 10. My monthly instalment towards the loan and its interest is ₹950," he said, hoping the government would do something more to compensate the loss he suffered during the pandemic.

The UPA government passed the Street Vendors Act, 2014, and the current NDA regime launched the PM SVANidhi scheme in June 2020. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The UPA government passed the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, and the current NDA regime launched the PM SVANidhi scheme in June 2020, but street vendors like Pawan – one of the most vulnerable sections of society both economically and socially – are facing the brunt of poverty and administrative neglect, especially after the pandemic.

While agreeing that PM SVANidhi has helped street vendors with Letters of Recommendation (LoR) from the Centre, which were used to get bank loans, the unions working among street vendors in Delhi-NCR complain that the offering did not match the lockdown distress they faced. The BJP government, ahead of the elections, has claimed that it has spent about ₹8,600 crore under the scheme.

Street talk

Usha, a migrant from Gujarat, stays at Raghubir Nagar, a suburb in Delhi that houses thousands of migrant street vendors like her. She barters steel kitchen utensils in return for barely used clothes that are cleaned and sold through weekly markets in Delhi. For the past 20 years, she has also been a volunteer for Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a 51-year-old trade union that works among women, including street vendors.

"Our families have been doing this job for more than five decades. Earlier it was ceramic pots, now it's steel utensils. The monthly earning is about ₹6,000. When we lost even that income during the COVID-19 pandemic, the PM SVAnidhi loans helped us to start afresh. But still, we find it difficult," she said, adding that proper implementation of the Street Vendors Act can solve many problems they face.

Lata, who leads about 10,000 women street vendors through SEWA, managing four weekly markets in Delhi, including the famous Sunday book market of Daryaganj, says that post-lockdown, several women started working as housemaids. Most are Dalits, minorities, and people from backward communities. Additionally, they are migrants, adding many layers of marginalisation.

Delhi has approximately 6 lakh street vendors as per trade union records. "For a 2-crore population, the government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) can provide more licences to street vendors," she said.

The Urban Development Ministry said the aim of the PM SVANidhi loan was to help street vendors restart their businesses after COVID-19. Under the scheme, only available to those aged under 60, a collateral-free working capital loan up to ₹10,000 was provided. It had a one-year tenure, with an enhanced loan of ₹20,000 and ₹50,000 in the second and third tranches, respectively, on repayments of earlier loans.

"Earlier, banks were not ready to provide us loans even with a strict directive from the Union Urban Development Ministry. We had to hold several meetings with banks, MCD officials, and Delhi government officials to get these loans passed. We also organised protests for this," said Shakeel Ahmed Siddiqui, the general secretary of the Delhi Pradesh Rehri Patri Khomcha Hawkers Union.

Mr. Siddiqui said street vendors need social security, while Ms. Lata said the Centre and the State governments should constitute welfare Boards for street vendors. "The issue is the approach of the governments towards poor. It has to change," she said.

Call to roll out shorter drug regimen for TB treatment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A group of doctors and patients have sought the urgent intervention of the government to roll out the BPaL regimen, comprising Bedaquiline, Pretomanid and Linezolid, for TB treatment. According to the group, this regimen is a shorter, more effective and economically viable treatment option for drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). The regimen, with a treatment duration of just 26 weeks, stands in stark contrast to the existing conventional treatment for DR-TB, which can require patients to take over 4,000 to 5,000 tablets over 18 to 21 months.

Dr. Amitesh Gupta, assistant professor, Pulmonary Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College and Hospital, said, "Current drug-resistance TB treatment depends on multiple factors. There are 12 to 15 drugs out of which five or six are given to patients on a case-to-case basis. The newer BPaL regimen uses only three drugs and the treatment lasts only for 26 weeks, in contrast to eight or nine tablets each day for 18 months in the conventional treatment for DR-TB.

The group said that the regimen has been rolled out in over 70 countries, including South Africa, Ukraine, Indonesia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Centre seeks inclusion of traditional medicine on WHO's list

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

In a move meant to put the Indian system of medicine on the world map and provide it with a common standardised language, the Union government has sought the inclusion of Ayurveda and related systems in the 11th revision of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD), as the second module of a supplementary chapter on traditional medicine conditions.

The ICD provides a common language that allows health professionals to share standardised information across the world. The traditional medicine module of the 11th revision provides a list of diagnostics categories to collect and report on medicine conditions in a standardised and internationally comparable manner.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ayush Ministry Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said, "We are hopeful that the addition of Module-2 for Ayurveda could happen by next January."

To aid research

"Ayurveda and related Indian traditional health care systems are a formally recognised and widely practised health care systems in India, which is making a strong and valid point for its inclusion," said Mr. Kotecha, adding that efforts to effectively regulate traditional medicine as an integral part of the health system require standardised and evidence-based information.

After consultations, ICD-11 has facilitated the inclusion of Module-1, which covers traditional medicine from China. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Kotecha further explained that the traditional medicine chapter under ICD-11 is a formative step for the integration of such forms of medicine into a classification standard used in conventional medicine. "It also provides the means for doing research and evaluation to establish its efficacy," he said.

The Ministry added that this chapter would also help to respond to growing demands for more and better regulation of traditional medicine, and its integration in mainstream health care and health information systems.

Chinese medicine

After a decade of repeated consultations, ICD-11 had facilitated the inclusion of Module-1, which covers traditional medicine conditions originating in ancient China, which are now commonly used in China, Japan, Korea, and elsewhere around the world.

The 11th revision contains around 17,000 unique codes and more than 1,20,000 codable terms, which are now entirely digital.

The joint use of ICD-11's chapter on traditional medicine along with other chapters on neoplasm, patient safety, and injuries, can enhance the reporting of adverse events. It will enable the integration of traditional medicine into insurance coverage and reimbursement systems, in line with larger WHO objectives relating to universal health coverage. It will also link traditional medicine practices with global conventional medicine's norms and standard development.

The development of Module-2 for Ayurveda-related diagnostic systems is being actively supported by the Ministry of Ayush. It banks on the implementation experience gained on the ground by the National Ayush Morbidity and Standardised Terminologies Electronic portal, and the Ayush Health Information Management System, the Ministry said.

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia pauses discussions on normalisation of ties with Israel

REUTERS

Saudi Arabia has suspended talks on potentially normalising ties with Israel, a source said on Saturday, as the war raged between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. U.S. President Joe Biden has been pushing for establishing relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia ruled by Prince Mohammed bin Salman.AFP

YEREVAN

Armenia President signs country's ratification of ICC membership

AFP

Armenia's President Vahagn Khachaturyan signed the ratification of the Rome Statute, recognising the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) despite Russian warnings. Khachaturyan signed the treaty "retroactively recognising the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court by the Republic of Armenia." AFP

LONDON

Hollywood icon Michael Caine announces retirement from acting

REUTERS

Veteran British actor Michael Caine, a Hollywood icon with a decades-spanning career, revealed on Saturday that he has retired from acting at the age of 90. The Oscar-winner bows out following another widely-praised performance in his final film, *The Great Escaper*, which was released on October 6. AFP

NEW YORK

Louise Glück, Nobel-winning poet of candid lyricism, dies at 80

AP

Nobel laureate Louise Glück, a poet of unblinking candour and perception who wove classical allusions and philosophical reveries into indelible portraits of a fallen and heartrending world, has died at 80. She died of cancer at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the U.S. AP

Israel military says northern Gaza residents must not 'delay' evacuation

Israel has designated two safe routes for more than one million residents of northern Gaza to leave for the south of the blockaded territory; Hamas chief accuses Israel of war crimes and preventing humanitarian aid from entering Gaza Strip

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Battered territory: Smoke and fire rise following an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip as seen from southern Israel on Saturday. AP

The Israeli military said on Saturday that Gaza City residents must not delay their departure before an expected ground offensive starts, as people leaving the north of the territory again jammed roads south.

Israel has designated two safe routes for more than one million residents of northern Gaza to leave for the south of the blockaded territory.

Military spokesman Richard Hecht said there is a safe passage "window" between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (1830 IST) on the roads, down the Gaza coast and through the centre of the narrow Palestinian territory, which is about 40 km long.

Thousands of Gazans packed buses, cars and donkey carts again on Saturday to escape the northern zone, where the bulk of Israeli air and artillery strikes have occurred.

Without saying how many days the window would remain, Hecht told reporters: "We know this is going to take time but we recommend people not to delay."

Israel has faced calls from the United Nations, United States and European Union to delay an expected full offensive to give civilians time to leave.

Focus on city

The Israeli military has indicated that Gaza city will be the focus of its operations because this is the base for the Hamas leadership that it blames for the attacks last week that left at least 1,300 dead in Israel.

Gaza authorities say at least 2,215 people have died in Israeli retaliatory strikes against Gaza targets over the past seven days.

Among them, 324 people were killed in the past 24 hours alone, the Hamas-controlled Health Ministry said.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh on Saturday accused Israel of committing war crimes and preventing humanitarian aid from entering the Gaza Strip, as Israel pounds the blockaded territory with air strikes.

"Israeli atrocities amount to war crimes," he said in a letter addressed to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that was posted on the Palestinian group's website.

'Barbaric siege'

Haniyeh also condemned the "barbaric Israeli siege imposed" on the Palestinian territory, charging that "the Israeli occupation is banning entry of humanitarian aid and medical supplies to the Gaza Strip".

He urged Guterres to pressure Israel into letting humanitarian aid enter into Gaza.

Iran Minister warns Israel of spread of war across West Asia

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Iran's Foreign Minister on Saturday called upon Israel to stop its attacks on Gaza, warning that the war might expand to other parts of West Asia if Hezbollah joins the battle, and that would make Israel suffer "a huge earthquake."

Hossein Amirabdollahian told reporters in Beirut that Lebanon's Hezbollah group has taken all the scenarios of a war into consideration and Israel should stop its attacks on Gaza as soon as possible.

Israel considers Hezbollah its most serious immediate threat, estimating it has some 1,50,000 rockets and missiles, including precision-guided missiles that can hit anywhere in Israel.

The group, which has thousands of battle-hardened fighters who participated in Syria's 12-year conflict, also has different types of military drones.

Hezbollah fighters have been on full alert along Lebanon's borders with Israel following last Saturday's attack by the militant Palestinian group Hamas that left hundreds of Israeli civilians and soldiers dead.

On Saturday, the Israeli military said an Israeli drone strike along the border with Lebanon killed a "cell" that was trying to infiltrate into Israel. On Friday, Hezbollah said its fighters fired several rockets at four Israel positions along the border.

Hossein Amirabdollahian

Meeting with Hezbollah

Mr. Amirabdollahian said he met Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who briefed him on the group's conditions in Lebanon.

"I know about the scenarios that Hezbollah has put in place," Mr. Amirabdollahian said.

"Any step the resistance (Hezbollah) will take will cause a huge earthquake in the Zionist entity," he added.

Mr. Amirabdollahian also said: "I want to warn the war criminals and those who support this entity before it's too late to stop the crimes against civilians in Gaza, because it might be too late in few hours."

Israel admits to mistakes in failing to predict attack

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

A senior Israeli official on Saturday admitted "mistakes" in intelligence assessments ahead of a brutal Hamas attack last weekend that took the country by surprise.

Palestinian militants early on October 7 launched a multi-pronged assault, breaching the Gaza border barrier and targeting southern Israeli communities and Army bases.

"It's my mistake, and it reflects the mistakes of all those making (intelligence) assessments," National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi told a press briefing when asked about his recent remarks predicting no Hamas aggression.

"We really believed that Hamas learned the lesson from" its last major war with Israel in 2021, Mr. Hanegbi said.

More than 1,300 civilians and security forces have been killed since the attack began, according to Israeli officials, and at least 120 have been seized by militants and believed to be held captive in Gaza.

Mr. Hanegbi rejected negotiations towards any prisoner swap deal with Hamas. "There's no way to negotiate with an enemy we have sworn to obliterate," he said.

Conservative parties surge to victory in New Zealand polls

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

New Zealanders resoundingly elected a new conservative government on Saturday, with incumbent Prime Minister Chris Hipkins conceding his centre-left Labour party's six years in power were over.

Mr. Hipkins, who replaced Jacinda Ardern in January, said he was "not in a position to form a government" and had already congratulated premier-in-waiting Christopher Luxon.

The National Party and its coalition partner ACT were projected to win 62 seats with 85% of the vote tallied – enough to secure a majority in New Zealand's 120-seat Parliament.

Luxon's promise

Mr. Luxon, a former airline executive, said New Zealanders had "reached for hope and voted for change".

The election campaign had been dominated by an increasingly difficult economic situation and a spike in the cost of living. "My pledge to you is that National will deliver for every New Zealander," Mr. Luxon said, promising to "build the economy and deliver tax relief".

Australian voters reject greater Indigenous rights

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

The reforms called for a panel to weigh in on laws that affect Indigenous communities

Australians have roundly rejected greater rights for Indigenous citizens, scuppering plans to amend the country's 122-year-old constitution after a divisive and racially tinged referendum campaign.

With 88% of polling places reporting, around 59% of people had voted against a proposal to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders within the 1901 constitution for the first time.

The reforms would also have created a consultative body – a "Voice" to Parliament – to weigh in on laws that affect Indigenous communities and help address profound social and economic inequality.

The often spiteful campaign exposed the deep racial fault lines still running through the so-called Lucky Country.

Call for union

Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who campaigned for a "yes" vote, urged a divided nation to now come together in a "spirit of unity and healing". He added that the defeat would be a "heavy weight to carry" and "very hard to bear".

"From tomorrow we will continue to write the next chapter in that great Australian story. And we'll write it together. And reconciliation must be a part of that chapter," he said.

Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, the first Aboriginal woman elected to sit in the House of Representatives, said "Today is a day of sadness".

Indigenous Australians expressed anger and anguish that the white majority had rejected calls for a reckoning with the country's bloody colonial past.

'Heated' fighting in Avdiivka as Russia tries to 'surround' city; Moscow shoots down two drones over Black Sea

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Kyiv reported "heated" fighting around its eastern city of Avdiivka on Saturday, saying Russian forces had "not stopped assaulting" the symbolic industrial hub for days in their attempt to surround it.

Ukraine last week said Russia had stepped up assaults on the frontline city, which lies just 15 km from Moscow-held Donetsk.

Avdiivka has been a symbol of Ukrainian resistance since 2014, after it briefly fell to Russian-backed separatists. Russian forces now control territory to the east, north and south of Avdiivka.

Flash point: Smoke rises from the area in the direction of Avdiivka as a result of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. REUTERS

"For the fifth day already, the enemy has not stopped either assaulting or shelling positions around the city," Vitaliy Barabash, the head of the city, said.

"It is very heated, very heated," he said of the fighting.

"They are trying to surround the city," Mr. Barabash added, claiming that Moscow was deploying "more new forces" to the area.

Kyiv's Interior Ministry said Russian shelling had "destroyed" a five-storey building in the city, saying it believed a man in his sixties was under the rubble but that it was "impossible to retrieve the body."

Order to evacuate

It urged residents still in Avdiivka to evacuate.

Some 1,600 civilians are believed to be in the city, which had a pre-war population of 31,000.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said Kyiv was holding its ground in Avdiivka, but Moscow claimed it had improved its positions there.

Ukraine also said that a Russian attack killed an 11-year-old boy in the eastern village of Bagatyr, also in the Donetsk region, some 80 km west of Avdiivka.

Russia said on Saturday it shot down two attack drones over the Black Sea in the southern resort city of Sochi. Ukraine has hit Russian cities with drones for months, but Sochi – a mountain and sea resort – has so far been largely spared from attacks.

"There were no casualties or damage in the city," the Governor of the southern Krasnodar said, adding that the airport was working "normally" and that "the situation was under control."

Government Of Tamil Nadu
Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project
Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP)

RFB No.: IN-TNRTS-384328-CW-RFB **Request For Bids (RFB)** Date: 15.10.2023

Name of Country : India
Name of the Project : Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project
Proposed Loan No : Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (P157702)

Request for Bids

The following work is to be procured for TNRTP

S.No	Work	Period of Work
1	RFB for Office Refurbishment work for the establishment of the Cocreation Centre	5 Months

Interested agencies/Firm with required experience are requested to bid for this work before 4.00PM on16.11.2023.The Notifications of the request for Bids (RFB) will be available in the official website of TNRTP i.e., **www.vkp-tnrtp.org** from **16.10.2023.**

Request for bids for Office Refurbishment work for the establishment of the Cocreation Centre.

The Chief Executive Officer,
TNRTP

DIPR/5612/Tender/2023

Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project

No: 010816/P&C/VKP/2023 Date: 12.10.2023

REQUEST FOR INVITE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRING OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENCY FOR CONDUCTING EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT FOR TNRTP

The Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project invites "Expression of Interest" from the eligible agencies to submit their interest for providing consulting services for World Bank funded Project for "**Hiring of Technical Support Agency for Conducting External Environmental Audit for TNRTP**". Interested agencies which are having an office in Tamil Nadu may submit their "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" in a sealed envelope clearly superscribed as Expression of Interest for "**Hiring of Technical Support Agency for Conducting External Environmental Audit for TNRTP" latest by 17.00 hours on 06.11.2023**. This selection will be done on Consultant Qualification Based Selection (CQS) of the World Bank. The agencies may obtain further information and procedures for submitting the "Expression of Interest" from the official website of TNRTP i.e., **www.vkp-tnrtp.org**

Chief Executive Officer,
TNRTP

DIPR/5605/Tender/2023

Deep-learning helps classification of tumours during surgery

The Hindu Bureau

A method to quickly classify central nervous system (CNS) tumours, combining rapid sequencing and deep-learned AI models, may enable molecular diagnosis in less than 90 minutes, according to a study published in *Nature*. The findings demonstrate the potential feasibility of obtaining molecular diagnosis of tumours during surgery to assist surgical decision making. Primary treatment of CNS tumours involves surgical removal of the tumours, which requires careful consideration to strike a balance between maximising the removal of tumorous tissue while minimising the risk of neurological damage and other complications. The standard practice relies on preoperative imaging and histological analysis during surgery, but these methods are not always conclusive . Sequencing DNA to uncover methylation profiles could reveal information about the origin and prognosis of a tumour, but it takes days to get the results.

To obtain DNA methylation profiles quickly enough to provide a diagnosis during surgery, Jeroen de Ridder from Oncode Institute, Utrecht, The Netherlands and others used a technology called nanopore sequencing. This method is faster, but the data generated has much less coverage of genetic sites . To enable molecular classification of CNS tumours with such sparse data, the researchers developed a neural network tool named 'Sturgeon'. "We developed Sturgeon, a patient-agnostic transfer-learned neural network, to enable molecular sub classification of central nervous system tumours based on such sparse profiles," they write. After validating the tool with simulated data, the authors tested Sturgeon on data from CNS tumour samples. Sturgeon correctly classified 45 out of 50 samples based on data equivalent to 20-40 minutes of sequencing. The authors also demonstrated Sturgeon's performance and applicability in real time during 25 surgeries, achieving a diagnostic turnaround time of less than 90 minutes. "Of these, 18 (72%) diagnoses were correct and seven did not reach the required confidence threshold. We conclude that machine-learned diagnosis based on low-cost intraoperative sequencing can assist neurosurgical decision-making, potentially preventing neurological comorbidity and avoiding additional surgeries," they write.

The findings demonstrate that deep-learned diagnosis based on fast sequencing during surgery may be able to assist neurosurgical decision making and potentially improve prognosis of patients.

How a 6.3 magnitude quake caused another of same intensity

The first shallow focus earthquake of 6.3 magnitude, which occurred near the far western terminus of the Hindu Kush Mountain range in Afghanistan, was followed by another 6.3 magnitude quake 30 minutes later

R. Prasad

In what can be termed as unusual, a shallow focus (14 km depth) earthquake of 6.3 magnitude struck about 40 kms northwest of Herat in Afghanistan at around 11:00 am local time on October 7 (Saturday).

The earthquake occurred as the result of thrust faulting near the far western terminus of the Hindu Kush Mountain range. Just 30 minutes after the first quake, Herat was struck by another shallow earthquake (about 13.5 km depth) of the same intensity – 6.3 magnitude.

Shallow focus earthquakes rock Afghanistan

The three earthquakes occurred as the result of thrust faulting

Deadly: Twin earthquakes on October 7 killed 2,445 people and injured more than 2,000 people. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- A shallow focus (14 km depth) earthquake of 6.3 magnitude struck about 40 kms northwest of Herat in Afghanistan at around 11 am local time on October 7
- The earthquake occurred as the result of thrust faulting near the far western terminus of the Hindu Kush Mountain range
- Just 30 minutes after the first quake, Herat was struck by another shallow focus earthquake (at about 13.5 km depth) again with 6.3 magnitude
- On October 11, a third shallow focus earthquake of same magnitude (6.3) struck Herat
- As a rule, the magnitude of aftershocks is always lesser than the main event (quake)
- The second quake with 6.3 magnitude on October 7 is likely to have happened when the release of stress at one point in the fault resulted in the loading of stress at another location in the same fault
- The loading of stress can result in another earthquake which can be of similar or higher magnitude but never smaller than the first quake

Fault planes

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): "[The first] earthquake was followed by a second earthquake [with 6.3 magnitude] that occurred approximately 30 minutes later. Both earthquakes occurred on east-west striking fault planes that dip to either the north or south. The earthquakes occurred within the Eurasia plate in an intracontinental mountain belt". There were about a half-a-dozen aftershocks following the earthquakes.

Four days later, on October 11 (Wednesday), Herat witnessed yet another shallow earthquake at around 5.10 am local time with the focus of the quake being just 9 km below the surface. It had the same intensity (6.3 magnitude) as the previous ones on October 7.

All three earthquakes have been thrust faults, otherwise known as reverse faults. Thrust faults form due to horizontal compressive stresses and so cause shortening of the crust. Here one block or wall (the hanging wall) moves up relative to the other (called the footwall).

These three quakes struck a little over a year after another shallow earthquake at 10 km depth struck near Khōst, Afghanistan on June 22, 2022 at around 1:25 am local time.

Cause of second quake

Earthquakes are generally followed by aftershocks of relatively lesser magnitude. Why was the second earthquake on October 7 that struck within 30 minutes called a fresh quake and not an aftershock?

"To call a quake an aftershock, the magnitude has to be lesser than the magnitude of the main event [quake]," explains Dr. R. K. Chadha, former senior scientist at the Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) and currently a Raja Ramanna Fellow at NGRI. "A quake of 6.3 magnitude was followed by another of the same magnitude. This can happen when a fault at one place ruptures resulting in an earthquake that releases the stress. The release of stress in one fault results in the loading of stress at another fault. The loading of stress can result in another earthquake which can be of similar magnitude or even higher magnitude. But the magnitude will not be smaller than the first quake." In the case of the October 7 earthquakes, the two quakes occurred in the same fault. Generally, in Afghanistan, the fault can be very long and wide.

"In subduction zones and in the Himalayas where there is interaction between two continental plates, the fault lengths can be very large and also very wide. That is the reason why an earthquake in the fault can trigger another in the same fault," he says. The second earthquake occurred quite close to the first one (about 20 km distance) in the same fault.

Two faults

"When I see the three earthquakes in two parallel faults, there could be an interplay of these faults," he says. "All three earthquakes are quite close by, and if you see the locations of all the three quakes, there is a systematic migration pattern visible. In this case, there is a migration of quakes from west to east."

"In any thrust fault environment in a subduction zone, there will be a series of parallel thrust faults. In this case the faults are aligned in an east-west direction. The two faults on October 7 and the one on October 11 have been on two faults trending east-west," Dr. Chadha adds. The precise location of the first quake epicentre on October 7 was 34.610 degree north and 61.924 degree east, while the October 11 earthquake was 34.557 degree north 62.045 degree east.

Earthquakes are quite common in Afghanistan due to active interactions between three tectonic plates – the Arabia, Eurasia, and India plates. According to the USGS, earthquakes in western and central Afghanistan are "primarily influenced by the northward movement of the Arabia plate relative to the Eurasia plate."

According to USGS, beneath the Pamir-Hindu Kush Mountains of northern Afghanistan, earthquakes occur to depths as great as 200 km as a result of remnant lithospheric subduction.

"Shallower crustal earthquakes in the Pamir-Hindu Mountains occur primarily along the Main Pamir Thrust and other active Quaternary faults, which accommodate much of the region's crustal shortening. The western and eastern margins of the Main Pamir Thrust display a combination of thrust and strike-slip mechanisms," notes USGS.

Egypt is racing to eliminate hepatitis C

The Hindu Bureau

On October 9, WHO announced that Egypt had made "unprecedented progress" towards eliminating hepatitis C. According to the WHO, Egypt became the first country to achieve "gold tier" status on the path to elimination of hepatitis C as per the global health body criteria. The "gold tier" status to reach the stated goal of eliminating hepatitis C includes meeting specific criteria such as ensuring 100% blood and injection safety, maintaining a minimum of 150 needles/syringes per year for people who inject drugs (PWID), diagnosis of over 80% of people living with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV), treating of over 70% of individuals diagnosed with HCV, and the establishing of a sentinel surveillance programme for hepatitis sequelae, including liver cancer.

Egypt has diagnosed 87% of people living with hepatitis C and has provided 93% of those diagnosed with curative treatment, exceeding the WHO gold tier targets of diagnosing at least 80% of people living with hepatitis C and providing treatment to at least 70% of diagnosed people, the WHO said. Egypt had undertaken the "100 Million Healthy Lives" initiative. Through this initiative, Egypt "significantly reduced the prevalence of hepatitis C from 10% in 2016 to 5% in 2018 and an estimated less than 1% in 2019", the Africa CDC said.

"Egypt's journey from having one of the world's highest rates of hepatitis C infection to being on the path to elimination in less than 10 years is nothing short of astounding," Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said in a statement. "Egypt is an example to the world of what can be achieved with modern tools, and political commitment at the highest level to use those tools to prevent infections and save lives. Egypt's success must give all of us hope and motivation to eliminate hepatitis C everywhere."

Infection route: The most common route of hepatitis C virus spread is injection drug use. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

"With its commitment to eliminate hepatitis C, Egypt has succeeded in testing virtually the whole of the eligible population and has treated almost all those who are living with the virus. This represents one third of the 12 million people living with hepatitis C in the Eastern Mediterranean Region," Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean said in a statement.

According to the Africa CDC, Egypt was able to achieve huge success with hepatitis C due to key interventions undertaken including population-based surveys to understand the hepatitis C epidemic (who is affected and where) and developing an investment case to highlight the economic burden of HCV. Egypt also customised the elimination programme by involving generalist doctors to community healthcare workers and using telemedicine for hard-to-reach areas. But the biggest boost came from reducing the cost of medical treatment per patient to less than $50 through local manufacturing.

Hepatitis C infection is unevenly distributed globally, with these regions accounting for the most – European (22%), South-East Asia (20%) and the Eastern Mediterranean (17%). According to a 2023 WHO document, in 2019, there were 1.5 million new infections, with one third of new HCV infections occurring in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The prevalence of hepatitis C across the world in 2019 was 58 million. Though unscreened blood and blood products and inadequate sterilisation of medical equipment in health-care settings are two important routes of virus transmission, the most common route of virus spread is through unsafe injection practices . The use of safe injections has however reduced new hepatitis C infections.

SNAPSHOTS

Researchers develop the largest human brain cell atlas

Researchers have developed an atlas of the human and non-human primate brain at the cell-type level in unprecedented detail. The researchers' collective efforts characterised more than 3,000 human brain cell types, revealing features that distinguish us from other primates in some. Understanding the human brain at such resolution will not only help scientists pin down which cell types are affected by mutations, leading to neurological diseases - it will also offer understanding of who we are as a species.

Arctic ecosystem impacts grey whale population

Even highly mobile, large, and long-lived species are sensitive to dynamic and changing conditions as the Arctic warms. As per a new study, population swings in eastern North Pacific grey whales – some of which have resulted in recent mass mortality events – are driven by changing prey biomass and ice cover in the Arctic. Climate change is driving rapid change in Arctic ecosystems, including the shallow basins of the Pacific Arctic, which are critical marine areas that support various migratory marine species.

About 2 MYA, *Homo Erectus* produced Acheulean tools

Homo erectus had expanded beyond the lowland savanna environments of East Africa and into the high-altitude regions of the Ethiopian highlands, where they produced both Oldowan and Acheulean tools, according to a new study. The study presents a reanalysis of an early hominin fossil. Using synchrotron imaging to examine the internal morphology of the unerupted teeth in the Garba IV mandible, researchers confirm that it belonged to *H. erectus*.

Question Corner

From Neanderthals

What causes some people to have greater sensitivity to certain types of pain?

People who carry three gene variants that have been inherited from Neanderthals are more sensitive to some types of pain, according to a new study. The latest findings show how past interbreeding with Neanderthals has influenced the genetics of modern humans. The researchers found that people carrying three so-called Neanderthal variants in the gene SCN9A, which is implicated in sensory neurons, are more sensitive to pain from skin pricking after prior exposure to mustard oil. Previous research has identified three variations in the SCN9A gene, known as M932L, V991L, and D1908G – in sequenced Neanderthal genomes and reports of greater pain sensitivity among humans carrying all three variants. The researchers found that the D1908G variant of the gene was present in around 20% of chromosomes within this population and around 30% of chromosomes carrying this variant also carried the M932L and V991L variants.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

How is the IORA a key bloc for India?

Has the Indian Ocean Rim Association managed to keep out big power rivalries? What are its focus areas?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

'Reinforcing Indian Ocean Identity' was the banner theme at the Indian Ocean Rim Association's (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) held in Colombo on October 11, that was attended by foreign ministers and senior officials of the 23-nation grouping of countries. This year's conference was marked by a lot of interest from other countries, especially those who are "dialogue partners" or would like to become dialogue partners, putting a spotlight on the 26-year-old organisation, believed to be the brainchild of former South African President Nelson Mandela.

What is the IORA and how was it formed?

The Indian Ocean Rim Association includes 23 countries from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, Australia and littoral states situated in and around the Indian Ocean. The grouping, whose apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers that meet once a year, moves by rotation through members every two years. Sri Lanka took charge as Chair this year from Bangladesh, and India is Vice-Chair, meaning that the troika of IORA is within the South Asian region. IORA's membership includes 23 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, the Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the UAE and Yemen. It also has 11 dialogue partners: China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Türkiye, the U.K. and the U.S. While the IORA was formed in 1997 (then called the Indian Ocean Region-Association for Regional Cooperation) in Mauritius, its genesis came from a speech Nelson Mandela gave in Delhi in 1995. He was invited by then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as the guest for Republic Day, and said at a ceremony that India and South Africa should explore "the concept of an Indian Ocean Rim of socioeconomic cooperation and other peaceful endeavours" that could help developing countries within multilateral institutions "such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement".

The Indian Ocean Region handles 80% of the global oil trade, 50% of the world's containerised cargo and 33% of its bulk cargo

Why does the Indian Ocean Region matter?

A third of the world's population (2.6 billion people) live in the region, and 80% of global oil trade, 50% of the world's containerised cargo and 33% of its bulk cargo passes through it. The region produces a combined total of $1 trillion in goods and services and intra-IORA trade is billed at around $800 billion. India's other regional organisations, like SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), face their own challenges. While the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue), has made progress, it remains U.S.-led, along with military allies Australia and Japan. Meanwhile, China is actively trying to rope in India's neighbours with groupings like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation, China-South Asian Countries Poverty Alleviation and Cooperative Development Centre, which exclude India. IORA, however, remains a "safe space" for India and other countries of the region that wish to keep out the constant challenge of big-power rivalries. IORA membership is based on consensus, and Pakistan has not been admitted to the grouping since it first applied in 2001, on the basis that it has not extended MFN (most favoured nation) status to India, making the IORA a less contentious space for India as well, compared to groupings like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

What does IORA focus on?

According to its charter, the IORA's seven priority areas are maritime safety and security; trade and investment facilitation; fisheries management; disaster risk management; academic, science and technology; tourism and cultural exchanges; and gender empowerment. The IORA also runs a special fund in addition, disbursing $80,000-$150,000 for project grants to members, and has a particular focus on climate change. It is clear that strategic issues and the importance of keeping a free and open sea lane, guarding against piracy, have become an integral part of the discussions. Speaking at the conference this year, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stressed the importance of maintaining the Indian Ocean as a "free, open and inclusive space" where there was "respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity" based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas, and in comments understood to be aimed at China, warned of the dangers of "hidden agendas, unviable projects or unsustainable debt" to countries in the Indian Ocean Region.

Will Israel's Gaza offensive stop Hamas?

Has Hamas's surprise attack on Israel put the life of millions of Palestinians in further danger? Has the Islamist group put itself on the line? As Netanyahu wages war, will he have to answer for the biggest security lapse under his watch? Is there risk of a wider regional war?

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

On October 7, a Jewish Sabbath day, Hamas launched a surprise attack into southern Israel, raiding its military bases and residential areas, killing at least 1,300 people and injuring thousands more. The Hamas attack has triggered a massive military response from Israel, which has been pounding Gaza ever since, using missiles, jets and dangerous munitions, including, what Human Rights Watch says, white phosphorus. Some 1,900 Gazans have been killed in strikes, and Israel has also asked some 1.1 million people living in northern Gaza to move towards the south within 24 hours, while it is preparing for a ground attack.

Why did Hamas launch the attack?

One explanation is that Hamas wanted to break the status quo. Over the years, the Israelis had built a security model that allowed them to keep the Palestinians under check while the occupation continued. Israel has a network of extensive checkpoints and barriers in the West Bank. Israel also saw that the Palestine issue was no longer a hindrance to improving ties with other Arab countries. When the UAE signed a normalisation agreement in 2020, Israel gave no concessions to the Palestinians. Similarly, Saudi Arabia and Israel were in advanced stage of talks until last week. So, from an Israeli point of view, the status quo allowed them to treat the Palestinian problem as a security nuisance that can be managed without major consequences. Hamas, on October 7, shattered this model – it not just drilled holes into Israel's perceived sense of security but also brought Palestine back to the fore of West Asia's geopolitical cauldron.

By carrying out the largest attack by a non-state actor in Israel's history, Hamas has taken a huge risk

Never-ending violence: Smoke plumes rise above buildings during an Israeli strike on the Gaza Strip on October 14. AFP

What was status quo before Hamas's attack?

The contested Palestinian territories include three parts of historical Palestine – the West Bank, East Jerusalem (both were captured by Israel from Jordan in 1967) and Gaza strip (captured in the same year from Egypt). There's no geographical contiguity between the West Bank (which is on the western bank of the Jordan River) and the Gaza strip, a tiny enclave sandwiched between Israel and the Mediterranean Sea. Since then, the West Bank has been under Israel's military occupation. In 1980, Israel passed the Jerusalem law, declaring unified Jerusalem as its capital, effectively annexing the eastern half of the city, including the Old City, which hosts the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Wailing Wall and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Since the 1970s, Israel has also encouraged Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which together now have close to 7,00,000 Jewish settlers. Gaza was under Israeli occupation and had Jewish settlers until 2005 when Israel, faced with Hamas's violent resistance, announced a unilateral disengagement from the enclave.

Currently, East Jerusalem is under Israel's total control, though a vast majority of Arabs of the city are not Israeli citizens; the West Bank is under Israel's direct occupation (the Palestinian Authority, a provisional self-governing body established as part of the 1993 Oslo Agreement, has very limited powers in limited areas of the West Bank) and Gaza is under Israel's blockade. The Islamist Hamas has been running Gaza since 2007, while the secular Fatah, the backbone of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), has been running the Palestinian Authority since its formation – except for a brief interregnum in 2006 when Hamas swept the parliamentary elections. There is no peace process, no united or organised Palestinian movement and no international push for the two-state solution.

What would be the impact of the attack?

By carrying out the largest attack by a non-state actor in Israel's history, Hamas has taken a huge risk. It was certain that Israel's response would be much more forceful this time than its past attacks on Gaza. Hamas's attack, from a strategic and humanitarian sense, has put the life of millions of Palestinians in further danger. Hamas has also put itself on the line. The Islamist group, which had carried out suicide attacks in the 1990s and early 2000s, had shown signs of moderation in recent years – it came up with a new charter in 2017 that had expunged the anti-Semitic language of its original charter and promised a lasting ceasefire (*hudna*) with Israel if it withdraws to the 1967 border. But the October 7 attack, in which Israeli civilians were indiscriminately targeted, suggests that Hamas hasn't evolved much when it comes to using terror as a means. Hamas is now likely to face a long phase of military attacks from Israel.

Is there a risk of wider regional war?

Since 1973, no Arab country has gone to war with Israel. On the contrary, six Arab countries reached normalisation agreements with Israel ever since, even when the occupation continued and deepened. But Israel faces at least three non-state rivals (Hezbollah, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad) and one conventional rival (Iran). Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, both based in Gaza, were part of the Sabbath attack. Hezbollah, the Shia militia-cum-political party of Lebanon, had fired rockets into Lebanon's contested Shebaa Farms, which are occupied by Israel, showing solidarity with the Palestinians, and Israel has retaliated with strikes on southern Lebanon. Hezbollah says it's ready to fight Israel when the time comes, but doesn't show any immediate inclination to join Hamas's war. Iran, which has close ties with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, has issued a statement saying it supports Palestinian resistance, but is unlikely to join a direct war with Israel, unless it comes under direct attack. So, as of now, the chances for a regional spillover are slim.

What does this attack mean for Netanyahu?

If Hamas took a huge risk and put the Gazans and itself in further jeopardy by carrying out the Sabbath attack, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also doesn't have easy options. He has promised to crush Hamas. But Hamas, unlike the transnational, pan-Islamist jihadist outfits such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, has deep roots in the Palestinian nationalist cause and is popular among the Palestinians.

Israel's own past military operations against non-state actors show a complicated history – Israel had won the battles many times, but failed to make long-term strategic gains or peace. It fought Hezbollah for 18 years in southern Lebanon but the Shia militant group today is as powerful as ever. If Israel's deterrence against Hamas had worked, the Sabbath attack wouldn't have occurred in the first place. So here, the question before Israel is whether it wants to carry out a short-term operation in Gaza and retreat or reoccupy the enclave of 2.3 million people and bring them under Israel's direct control. The first option would allow Hamas to regroup in the long term, and the second option could trigger a long urban war of attrition in one of the world's most densely populated areas. Mr. Netanyahu himself will have to answer questions once the initial shock and hubris settle. The Likud leader's long-term promise was that only he could ensure Israel's security. Yet, Israel's biggest security crisis unfolded on his watch.

Why are abortion laws in the spotlight again?

What are the rules on terminating a pregnancy under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Act? Why has the case of a married woman who is 26 weeks pregnant led to a pro-life versus pro-choice debate?

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

The story so far:

A married woman 26 weeks pregnant has approached the Supreme Court seeking to terminate her pregnancy citing inability to take care of the child due to post-partum depression and other health issues. She has two other children. The Supreme Court on October 9 agreed to her plea, but two days later, a two-judge Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and B.V. Nagarathna delivered a split verdict when the government brandished a report from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) which said that the foetus was viable and had a heartbeat. Aborting it at this stage would mean either putting a stop to the heartbeat or delivering the baby prematurely which might lead to severe complications both mental and physical for the child. The case was then referred to a larger Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, which has observed that the highest court of the land cannot overlook the rights of an unborn child thus igniting a pro-life versus pro-choice debate.

What does the MTP Act say?

According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Act 2021, opinion of only one registered medical practitioner will be required for the abortion of a foetus up to 20 weeks of gestation and of two for the termination of pregnancy from 20 to 24 weeks of gestation. The opinion of a state-level medical board is required for abortions over 24 weeks, in case of suspected foetal abnormalities.

A Supreme Court Bench says an unborn child has rights, and a woman's autonomy is also important

ISTOCKPHOTO

How is the 2021 law different from the earlier 1971 MTP Act?

The 2021 Act increased the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women, including survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women like differently abled and minors. A confidentiality clause was added which said that the name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated cannot be revealed except to a person authorised by law. It also extended MTP services, under the clause of failure of contraceptive, to unmarried women to provide access to safe abortion based on a woman's choice, irrespective of marital status.

What is the global trend on abortion laws?

Globally, there has been a trend towards liberalisation of abortion laws and increased access to abortion services. Since the early 1990s, nearly 60 countries across the world have eased abortion laws to expand the grounds under which abortion is legal. Only four countries, namely the U.S., El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Poland have removed legal grounds for abortion during this time period. Most notably, the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion in 2022.

What arguments did SC judges give while delivering a split verdict on the case?

A two-judge Bench of Justices Kohli and Nagarathna first allowed the woman to end her pregnancy, then withdrew the verdict and differed on whether the abortion could go forward. This was following a medical report from AIIMS that said the foetal heart would have to be stopped as part of the procedure. To this, Justice Kohli said she would not proceed with the earlier decision wondering which court could ask to stop the heartbeat of a foetus that has life. However, Justice Nagarathna differed and said that the petitioner was determined about her decision to not proceed ahead with her pregnancy triggering a pro-life versus pro-choice debate. The petitioner through her counsel had argued that she was asking for her rights under Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty), which overrides the MTP Act.

Is a foetus a living being? What does the law say?

According to Dr. Arathi P.M., Assistant Professor, School of Indian Legal Thought, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, the Indian legal scenario is not clear on whether the foetus is a living being or not. A pro-choice discourse, according to her, is not a materially and politically conducive argument for Indian society. Even if the Supreme Court takes a pro-choice view in this case, it will not be able to set a precedent for the future. The reason, she says, is that the Indian public health system is not geared up to address this and that private health care is very expensive. So, getting a safe abortion in India has become very precarious.

What were the observations by the CJI-headed Bench?

On October 12, the top court asked the woman to reconsider her decision to terminate the pregnancy and carry the foetus for a few more weeks so that the child isn't born with any deformities. The Bench observed that there are rights of the unborn child too and that a woman's autonomy is also important. The Bench said that the rights of the unborn child should also be balanced.

What is the way forward?

The petitioner's counsel and the Additional Solicitor General have both said that the 27-year-old woman was unwilling to continue with her pregnancy even after the AIIMS report. She has said that she was under medication for post-partum depression and other medical issues. The three-judge Bench, headed by the CJI, asked the AIIMS medical board to examine if there is any abnormality in the foetus. The apex court also asked the medical board to examine the health status of the woman, who says she is suffering from depression and severe post-partum psychosis. The government has also offered to take care of the child and put it up for adoption if the woman agrees to carry it full term.

PROFILES

Silk Roads at a crossroads

Belt and Road Initiative

China has poured in billions of dollars into the project, revitalising railway connections to Europe, investing in ports around Asia, and building infrastructure in Africa; yet, on the tenth anniversary, BRI is also facing searching questions, particularly over the debt burdens faced by partners

Ananth Krishnan

On October 17, Chinese President Xi Jinping will host more than a dozen world leaders in Beijing, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, for the third Belt and Road Forum, which will mark the 10 year anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI, as it turns 10, stands at a crossroads. China has poured in billions of dollars into the plan, revitalising railway connections to Europe, investing in ports around Asia, and building high-speed railways in Africa and Southeast Asia, among other projects. Yet, on the anniversary, the project is also facing searching questions, particularly over the debt burdens faced by many BRI partners, from Sri Lanka to Zambia.

Alluding to those concerns, the Chinese government, on October 10, released a White Paper on the BRI's past, present and future, pledging that the plan was "committed to the concept of open, green and clean cooperation...[has] zero tolerance for corruption, and promotes steady and high-quality growth."

The BRI was launched by Mr. Xi in 2013 in his first year in office, comprising two parts: a land-based Silk Road Economic Belt focusing on energy, infrastructure and connectivity projects in Eurasia that was unveiled by Mr. Xi in Kazakhstan, and a Maritime Silk Road that was announced in Indonesia. The project was first named the 'One Belt, One Road' but then quickly renamed as the BRI to convey a more open and inclusive initiative as opposed to a Chinese-dominated one (the name in Chinese, however, remains '*yi dai, yi lu*', or 'One Belt, One Road').

The land belt envisaged six corridors: the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor, the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor, the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor, the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor and the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor.

Launching the plan in 2013, China courted most of its neighbours in Central Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia. India refrained from joining the BRI, voicing its opposition to the CPEC that runs from Xinjiang in China's west, through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), to the Arabian Sea port of Gwadar. With India staying out, the BCIM corridor has also stalled, and has been replaced by a later launched China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

One of the biggest misconceptions about the BRI – one that is pervasive even a decade on – is that it is a monolith. This is, ironically, a perception that has been encouraged both by proponents and critics of the plan. For Beijing, arguably the BRI's biggest success has involved the narrative around the plan, that has conveyed to the world a sense of Chinese ascendance and ambition. The BRI as an idea has resonated especially with countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America that have seen an infrastructure deficit.

The BRI has essentially brought under one umbrella what is a collection of mostly disparate bilateral projects – many of which pre-dated 2013 and were subsequently given a BRI stamp. It has thus been framed as a global, interconnected master plan, even if, in reality, a large chunk of the investment has gone into stand-alone energy or infrastructure projects in partner countries barring a few transnational projects. There is little that is multilateral about the BRI. For instance, unlike the China-hosted Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in which India is a member (and second largest shareholder), the BRI has no governing structure as such. It is thus not a multilateral initiative, as commonly misconstrued, but a collection of disparate bilateral ones.

This is not to say that the BRI hasn't had a discernible impact on China's diplomacy and trade. Countries that have joined the BRI have seen a jump in investment and trade with China and preferential treatments in policy, although these are, again, enabled through bilateral arrangements. As the White Paper noted, between 2013 and 2022, trade with BRI partners grew 6.4% annually reaching $19.1 trillion while total investment reached $380 billion.

Detractors of the plan have similarly seen it as a monolith – one that some commentators have suggested was designed as a large "debt trap" to ensnare partners. The reality of the BRI, however, is far messier. In contrast to perceptions of a grand master plan, the rollout of the initiative since 2013 has often been uncoordinated and ad-hoc. Consider the financing. There is no one lender, instead a hodgepodge of multiple funders covering various state-owned banks, China's EXIM bank, and other players across the spectrum of China's financial system.

In the first years of the BRI, the weight put by Mr. Xi behind the plan saw political considerations trump economic ones as funds flowed to a range of projects. Even Chinese economists have later acknowledged due diligence was lacking in many projects that were governed by politics. The most glaring examples were the projects that former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa pushed in Hambantota, where today stands a gleaming China-built airport that sees few flights.

Second phase

Some analysts in Beijing have suggested the BRI is now entering a second phase. BRI 2.0 is seeing a sharp reduction in lending, and in October, reports citing the minutes of a high-level meeting of Chinese and Pakistani officials said Beijing had turned down requests for new projects there. The CPEC, a decade on, has had little of the transformative impact on the Pakistani economy that was initially hoped.

In 2023, as many as 26 BRI partners saw "a 100% drop in BRI engagement", according to the Belt and Road Investment Report from the Green Finance and Development Centre at Shanghai's Fudan University. BRI 2.0 is notably seeing fewer projects in South Asia, and more Chinese investments in East Asia, East Africa and Latin America, according to the report's analysis of investments this year. The report also noted that in the first half of 2023, an increasing share of outbound investments from China is from private sector companies, which have tended to be more discerning than lending from the state.

Beyond big-ticket infrastructure projects that tend to yield little returns in the short-term, an increasing focus appears to be on roping BRI partners into closer ties with China on strategic sectors, including rolling out 5G networks through what's being called the Digital Silk Road. The report said 2023 is likely to see more BRI deals on renewable energy and related technologies, manufacturing in new technologies such as batteries, trade-enabling infrastructure including pipelines, and a focus on Information and Communications Technology including 5G and setting up data centres, against the backdrop of the ongoing technology war between China and the U.S. In short, with a 48% decline in the average size of a deal compared to 2018, projects under the BRI are getting smaller, but more strategic.

THE GIST

- The BRI comprises two parts: a land-based Silk Road Economic Belt focusing on energy, infrastructure and connectivity projects in Eurasia, and a Maritime Silk Road that was announced in Indonesia
- The project was first named the 'One Belt, One Road' but then quickly renamed as the BRI to convey a more open and inclusive initiative as opposed to a Chinese-dominated one
- Launching the plan in 2013, China courted most of its neighbours in Central Asia, South Asia and Southeast Asia, while India refrained from joining the BRI, voicing its opposition to the CPEC

Under one umbrella

Countries that have joined the BRI have seen a jump in investment and trade with China and preferential treatments in policy

Building projects: An aerial view of the Chinese-funded project for the Port City in Colombo, Sri Lanka. AFP

Chart 1: Value of China's imports and exports with BRI countries and its share in China's total trade

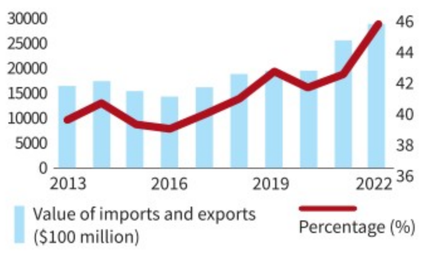
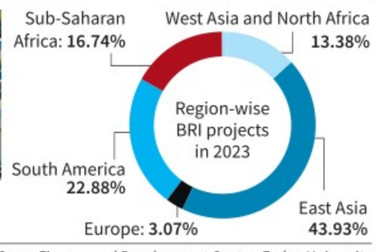


Chart 2: China's annual investments in the BRI are declining

Indonesia's high-speed train 'Whoosh' that was developed using assistance from China. AFP



Source: BRI White Paper 2023, State Council, PRC; Green Finance and Development Centre, Fudan University

Israel's missile defence shield

Iron Dome

The highly effective missile defence system shot down many rockets fired by Hamas on October 7, but some of them landed in populated areas

Dinakar Peri

PICTURE CREDIT: AFP

On the morning of October 7, around 06:30 local time in Israel, air raid sirens went off warning citizens of an aerial attack. Such instances have had occurred in the past. However, this time it was different – this was a multi-pronged attack by Gaza-based militant group Hamas from land, sea and air.

Around 2,200 rockets were fired towards southern and central Israel, according to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Many of them were shot down by 'Iron Dome' defensive shield, while some landed in populated areas.

Iron Dome is a short-range anti-rocket, anti-mortar, and anti-artillery system with an intercept range of 2.5 to 43 miles and was developed by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems of Israel, according to the U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS). Israel has at least 10 Iron Dome batteries deployed throughout the country, each designed to defend a 60-square-mile populated area and can be moved as threats change, it noted.

Iron Dome's targeting system and radar first track the trajectory of incoming projectiles and are designed to fire its Tamir interceptors only at those which are likely to land in populated areas or important areas/targets. In the past, Israel has put Iron Dome's interception rate at as high as 97%.

However, there is still no reliable information on the system's interception rate from the current conflict. Iron Dome's interception rate may have remained constant compared to previous conflicts, wrote Ben Barry, an expert at the British think tank International Institute for Strategic Studies in an analysis. "It also seems possible, however, that the high number of rockets fired and their launch frequency overwhelmed the system and degraded its interception rate."

Layered air defence

Israel has a four-layered air defence network to tackle a range of projectiles, short-range mortars, rockets and long-range ballistic missiles. These comprise the Iron Dome (short range), David's Sling (low to mid-range), Arrow II (upper-atmospheric), and Arrow III (exo-atmospheric), according to a CRS report. To date, the U.S. has provided nearly $3 billion to Israel for Iron Dome batteries, interceptors, co-production costs, and general maintenance, according to the CRS. The U.S. began financially supporting Israel's development of Iron Dome in 2011.

A co-production agreement signed between Israel and the U.S. in March 2014 enables manufacture of Iron Dome components in the U.S. Under a joint venture 'Raytheon Rafael Area Protection Systems', set up in 2020 between Rafael and Raytheon of the U.S., Tamir interceptors (the U.S. version is called SkyHunter) are manufactured at Raytheon's facility in Tucson, Arizona, and elsewhere, and then assembled in Israel. Israel also maintains the ability to manufacture Tamir interceptors within Israel.

The U.S. Army has procured two Iron Dome batteries from Rafael at a cost of $373 million. Currently, the U.S. Marine Corps is evaluating Iron Dome to fulfil its 'Medium Range Intercept Capability'.

Israel has extensive presence in the Indian military ecosystem, especially in air defence. In the past, Iron Dome was pitched to India to tackle threats from across the Line of Control (LoC), especially by terrorist groups. However, it did not fructify as India does not face such extremely close range threats. Instead, the Indian military had expressed interest in the Arrow system. Eventually, India procured some air defence elements and radars to take forward its indigenous Ballistic Missile Defence system.

Since the start of the war in February 2022, Ukraine has repeatedly sought Israeli-made weapons, including the Iron Dome. "Everyone in Israel knows that your missile defence is the best... And you can definitely help us protect our lives, the lives of Ukrainians, the lives of Ukrainian Jews," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in March 2022, addressing the Israeli Knesset by video.

Both the continued efficiency of Iron Dome, as adversaries adopt new tactics, as well as how the heavily fortified perimeter wall was breached extensively on October 7 without being detected will be analysed threadbare for some time to come.

The detective of economics

Claudia Goldin

The 77-year-old Harvard professor won this year's Nobel for Economics 'for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes'

Sudipta Datta

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

"I am happiest being a detective." The economic historian, Claudia Goldin, who has dedicated her life to seeking hidden truths, particularly about women's historical and contemporary roles in the workplace, has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics this year "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes".

The 77-year-old is only the third woman to have won the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences, and the first to do it solo. Passionate about studying trends in gender equality, the Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University collected data of over 200 years from dusty U.S. archives to show how women have faced up to the gender gap in earnings, women's participation in the labour force, the changes through the years, the reasons why and what can be done to reach gender parity.

The 2023 Global Gender Gap report pegged the gender gap score at 68.4%, which means there's still work left to do. The report from the World Economic Forum underscored that at the current rate of progress, it will take over a century to close the global gender gap.

In her 200-year period of study, Ms. Goldin's research showed that women's participation in the labour force did not necessarily move in step with economic growth. One of the patterns that emerged looked like a U-shaped curve, showing that the participation of married women decreased with the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society in the early 19th century, but then started to rise with the growth of the services sector in the early 20th century.

The Nobel Academy says her insights hold true not only for the U.S., but also many other countries. Thanks to her insights, "we should not count on economic growth automatically reducing gender differences in the labour market." She provides several explanations why equality has progressed slowly, collecting her observations in her path-breaking book, *Understanding the Gender Gap* (1990). In the beginning of the 20th century, Ms. Goldin found there was a significant difference in the employment rates of married and unmarried women; while around 20% of all women worked for pay, only 5% of married women did so.

U-shaped curve

Then, the U-shaped curve turned upwards, and more women began joining the workforce due to technological progress, rise in education levels and the emergence of the services sector. But she discovered that while it brought about advancement for women in some areas, it "established barriers in others". For example, the rise of the white collar sector increased women's labour force participation, but also saw the establishment of "marriage bars" that segregated men and women in certain jobs.

Many women were forced to leave the job market once they had children. Things changed in the late 1960s, she shows, with the introduction of the contraceptive pill that helped women plan careers better. But despite changes, the earnings gap between women and men is yet to close, and bridging it will require a rethink about women's roles at home.

In her own words, until she went to college, Ms. Goldin considered archaeology and bacteriology as career options. At the University of Chicago, she became a true disciple of economics. In her research, she focuses on three strands: Idea, theory, data and empirical methods. And yes, she suggests reading out any work loud, to anyone who will listen including a dog – her beloved pet is a 13-year-old Golden Retriever Pika who has a dedicated website.

Influenced by Paul de Kruif's 1926 book, *Microbe Hunters*, she put the microscope to study gender. Among her quiet eureka moments were a survey of firms she unearthed which had answers to questions like whether it discriminated on the base of race, if there were jobs for which they would not hire a woman, and whether married women were not hired and single women were fired when they married. Like Professor Alfred Kahn and other mentors, she has always used economics to unravel what lies in the shadows.

INBRIEF

D-Mart Q2 consolidated net profit falls 9% to ₹623.35 crore

Avenue Supermarts Ltd., which owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, on Saturday reported a 9.09% fall in consolidated net profit to ₹623.35 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, as gross margins were impacted due to lower contribution from general merchandise and apparel business. The company had posted a net profit of ₹685.71 crore in the July-September quarter of the previous year, the company said in a regulatory filing. PTI

India maintains basmati floor price as export curbs stay

India will maintain the floor price for basmati rice exports until further notice, according to a government order (G.O), as the world's biggest exporter continues to curb overseas shipments of the grain. India imposed a $1,200 per tonne minimum export price (MEP) on basmati rice shipments in August to calm local prices ahead of key State elections. A G.O. on Saturday said the country would maintain the MEP, initially in place until Sunday, until further notice. REUTERS

Venture Highway sells 1.5% in Meesho at 50-times return

Seed fund Venture Highway (VH) has sold 1.5% of its stake in e-commerce firm Meesho at an estimated valuation of about $3.5 billion, making a stellar 50-times return. Venture Highways in a statement said that it recently concluded a secondary sale of its part stake in Meesho to WestBridge Capital. "The transaction resulted in a return of over 50 times to VH for its investment from its 1st vintage fund into the company," Venture Highway said in a statement. PTI

Centre unveils tradeable Green Credit

Special scheme to allow individual or entity to earn Green Credit, trade it on a dedicated exchange. Green Credit refers to a unit of an incentive provided for specified activities that deliver a positive impact on the environment; to obtain credits, one needs to register the activity via a website

Shishir Sinha
NEW DELHI

The government has introduced a special programme allowing an individual or entity to earn Green Credit and trade it on a dedicated exchange.

Green Credit refers to a unit of an incentive provided for specified activities that deliver a positive impact on the environment. "A Green Credit programme is being launched at the national level to leverage a competitive market-based approach for incentivising environmental actions of various stakeholders," the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Ministry said in a notification. This programme is a follow-up action of the 'LiFE'-(Lifestyle for Environment) campaign. The notification added that the new programme is a voluntary one.

This programme will cover eight types of activities – tree plantation, water management, sustainable agriculture, waste management, air pollution reduction, and mangrove conservation and restoration. To get the Green Credit, one needs to register the activity with the administrator through a website. The activity will then be verified by a designated agency and based on its report, the administrator shall grant the applicant a certificate of Green Credit.

Trading green

The programme will cover 8 types of activities, including tree plantation, water management and sustainable agriculture

- Applicant shall register activity via web site
- Activity will then be verified by a designated agency
- Based on its report, administrator shall grant credit certificate

Trading platform

"The calculation of Green Credit shall be based on equivalence of resource requirement, parity of scale, scope, size, and other relevant parameters to achieve the desired environmental outcome," the notification said. A Green Credit Registry will also be included. The administrator will establish and maintain a trading platform.

The notification said the programme would incentivise environmentally-positive actions via a market-based mechanism and generate Green Credit, which shall be made available for trading on a domestic market platform.

The initiative aims to encourage industries, companies, and other entities meet their obligations under any law that is in force for the time being. However, the Green Credit generated or procured to fulfil any obligation, in compliance with any law, shall not be tradeable.

The notification clarified that the Green Credit programme is independent of the carbon credit provided under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023 under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. "An environmental activity generating Green Credit may have climate co-benefits, such as reduction or removal of carbon emissions... and may get carbon credit," it said.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

AI groups propose 24,500 GPUs of compute infra

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The groups have recommended a 3-tier model to establish India's AI infrastructure

Working groups formed by the government on artificial intelligence (AI) on Friday recommended setting up a three-tier compute infrastructure comprising 24,500 graphics processing units (GPUs).

The groups, whose report was released by Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, have recommended setting up best-in-class AI compute infrastructure at five locations with 3000 AI Petaflops computing power, which is 15 times more capacity than the highest capacity installed at present. Besides this, the groups have recommended setting up an Inference Farm (2500 AI PF) and Edge Compute (500 AI PF) systems.

The interference farm host AI applications to solve real-time problem or derive solutions using AI technologies.

The working groups have recommended implementation of a three-tier model to establish India's AI compute infrastructure for high-end, mid-range and edge compute comprising GPU processors, which are presently used in gaming device or for accessing any high-resolution multimedia applications.

Nvidia has announced a collaboration with Jio and Tata Group to build compute infrastructure in India that will provide the required resources for the development of AI in the country.

Bed linen maker Indo Count aims to double revenue in four years

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Indo Count Industries, a leading manufacturer and exporter of bed linen in the home textile space, plans to double its revenue in the next four years to almost ₹6,000 crore.

K.K. Lalpuria, its ED and CEO, said the company has invested ₹1,100 crore in the past couple years and achieved 75% of capacity utilisation last year.

Indo Count gets 14% of its revenue via e-commerce and about 2.5% from domestic sales.

"As a company, we are finding product diversification within our complete product basket, to meet their (customer) expectation level," said Mr. Lalpuria. He added that "because retailers are selling not only sheets, but also, say, mattress protectors, mattress pads, pillow protectors, pillows and comforters... there is a lot of space to grow where China once dominated".

He recalled that the Indian textile industry began with supplying only bed linen sets, but the product mix has now expanded.

ESIC added 19.42 lakh new members in August

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added 19.42 lakh new subscribers in August, according to provisional payroll data from the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

According to the data, about 24,849 new establishments were registered during the month.

Of the total 19.42 lakh employees added during the month, 9.22 lakh employees up to the age group of 25 years constituted new registrations.

Textile firm Lindstrom to open its 13th unit in India

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Textile rental company Linstrom India, which is part of Finland's Lindström Oy, will soon open its 13th unit in India.

According to its MD Jayant Roy, the company has presence across India with 12 units at present and a unit in Mumbai for production-on-demand. It has a clean room in Pune and will open one more in Hyderabad soon.

About 70% of the garments are made at the Mumbai unit and the remaining are sourced from its partners. "At the group level, there is a lot of sourcing from India, mainly for Europe and Asia," he said.

India will be global player in drones: Garuda Aerospace

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Agnishwar Jayaprakash

As drone use across sectors increases rapidly, coupled with the government's Production Linked Incentive scheme to encourage manufacture of drones, India could become a serious global player in this sector, said Garuda Aerospace founder and CEO, Agnishwar Jayaprakash.

The company is looking to raise $40-50 million in 2024 in a pre-IPO round after raising $22 million and announcing cricketer MS Dhoni as its ambassador.

Currently Garuda offers 30 different types of drones across agriculture, videography, project monitoring and surveillance and more than 50 types of services. It is aiming to sell at least one lakh drones in the next two years in the agriculture and consumer segment. The company, Mr. Jayaprakash said, has a 55% market share in the agriculture drone sector.

Helmet maker Steelbird eyes 50% increase in capacity

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Steelbird Hi-Tech India Ltd. has drawn up plans to increase the annual production of helmets by 50% to 15 million units in two years and is eyeing a greenfield project in Tamil Nadu, said MD Rajeev Kapur.

"Last year, we sold 6.2 million helmets and this fiscal, we are aiming to sell 10 million units," Mr. Kapur said in an interaction.

Currently, the helmet maker has eight plants - four each in Baddi and Noida - manufacturing 30,000 units a day, which would be enhanced to 50,000 to meet the target of 15 million units by next Deepavali, the MD said.

Walmart invests $39 mn in farmer livelihood enhancement in India

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Reaching farmers: In March, Walmart Foundation announced a strategy to reach 1 million smallholder farmers. REUTERS

Walmart Foundation said that since 2018, through its market access program it has invested more than $39 million in India to reach 500 Farmer Producer Organisations/Farmer Producer Groups targeting 8,00,000 farmers, of which more than half are women.

NGOs like PRADAN, ACCESS, Mercy Corps and Srijan are working with the Walmart Foundation's Market Access Program to provide on-ground impact.

Walmart Foundation, through its Market Access Program, said it is supporting agrarian communities in a total of nine states across India – Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, and Maharashtra.

In March 2023, to improve farmer livelihoods in India, the Foundation had announced a new five-year strategy to reach 1 million smallholder farmers by 2028, with at least 50% of them being women.

"We are witnessing the emergence of women leaders within Farmer Producer Organisations breaking barriers, and spearheading change," said Julie Gehrki, vice president and chief operating officer at Walmart Foundation in a statement.

"With organisations like ACCESS, Mercy Corps, PRADAN and Srijan by our side, we are forging a path toward greater gender equality, economic empowerment, and sustainable rural development. Together, we are nurturing a brighter future for rural women farmers and their communities," Ms. Gehrki further added.

MY BAD

Kohli mistakenly wears wrong jersey, leaves field to change

Virat Kohli was on Saturday forced to leave the field after he inadvertently wore the wrong jersey ahead of the match against Pakistan. Kohli left the field in the seventh over and returned before the eighth. He was initially wearing a jersey with plain white stripes on the shoulders instead of the shirt with tri-coloured stripes.

PLOTTING THE DISMISSAL

Kuldeep's homework pays off in the battle against Shakeel

Kuldeep Yadav has been observing Saud Shakeel's game and plotting his dismissal over the last few days. Kuldeep foxed him with a leg-spinner that rapped him on the pads and was given out on review. Kuldeep said, "Shakeel has been trying to sweep a lot. He thought that ball was slow but it skidded on."

BROTHERHOOD

We banter in Punjabi, he always supported me: Shadab on Kohli

Shadab Khan said in an ICC video on X that he and Virat Kohli are comfortable with each other since they both speak Punjabi. "When I was a youngster, he always supported me. Virat has been good to me and I enjoy that very much. Because he speaks Punjabi, we banter a bit in Punjabi," the Pakistan all-rounder said.

REAL PEST

Fan carries banner about mosquito that kept Gill out of action

Ahead of the India-Pakistan match, a fan from Bengaluru arrived in Ahmedabad with a humorous banner about the 'mosquito' that kept Shubman Gill out of action due to dengue for the first two matches. The fan said: "I felt really bad when Gill was down with dengue because he has been in really good form this year."

Fizzling out, firing away: The India-Pakistan game on Saturday may not have been a close one, but there was action aplenty like a Kuldeep ripper flummoxing Iftikhar, Rohit essaying his trademark shots and local boy Bumrah enjoying a field day. K.R. DEEPAK

Pakistan meltdown, Rohit classic and India's day out

A concerted display of quality bowling by the home team sees Babar's men slump from a promising 155 for two to be shot out for 191; the Indians make it 8-0 in the quadrennial showpiece

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
AHMEDABAD

Like fireflies dancing on a surreal night, fans held aloft their cellphones, switched on the torch lights and swayed. The captivating moment at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday summed up the state of the much-anticipated World Cup match between India and Pakistan.

Rohit Sharma's men were on the ascendant and stayed that way right through with the skipper leading from the front. Chasing Pakistan's 191, India scored 192 for three in 30.3 overs and registered a seven-wicket victory. The Men in Blue found their batting and bowling arms in sync, and Pakistan capitulated.

After the innings-break, India galloped with a string of fours that had poetry and panache as their subtext, thanks to Rohit and Shubman Gill. Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali were dealt with ease before the former induced a soft dismissal.

Gill slashed hard and found the fielder. Having whipped the first ball he faced for four, Rohit was unfettered and, with Virat Kohli for company, he lofted with that flick of his wrists enabling him to pick his spots.

The opener hoisted spinner Mohammad Nawaz and toyed with seamer Haris Rauf.

At the other end when Afridi came around the wicket, Kohli punched him for four. And then against the run of play, Kohli miscued a pull off Hasan. India 79 for two in 9.5 overs but Rohit found an immediate ally in Shreyas Iyer.

Languid and lethal

The skipper continued his languid and lethal ways, depositing Rauf into the stands while Shreyas tucked into the spinners.

The two shared a vital 77-run partnership when Rohit (86, 63b, 6x4, 6x6) failed to clear the in-field against Afridi. India already had one foot on the victor's podium, and the other foot was placed once Shreyas (53 n.o.) and K.L. Rahul hunted down the remainder of the target.

Earlier in the afternoon, Rohit won the toss, elected to field, and in a while a lakh of followers sang along as the national anthem was played. Soon it became 'Bum-Rah, Bum-Rah' while the fast bowler steamed in. On a pitch as smooth as the highways criss-crossing Gujarat's flat lands, Jasprit Bumrah was the super car purring away.

He tested the openers while Mohammed Siraj initially erred in his line and length and southpaw Imam-ul-Haq hit three fours. Meanwhile, Abdullah Shafique drove a few before Siraj ruffled the batter's pads.

The stadium erupted but skipper Babar Azam quickly bequeathed silence as he pulled Hardik Pandya.

Imam too played a few delectable shots against Kuldeep Yadav and Hardik before the all-rounder lured an edge. Babar, all oriental aesthetics, and Mohammad Rizwan, all street-fighter swag, then combined well and survived tense lbw appeals. Babar drove, Rizwan swept and they added 82 for the third wicket.

The script inexorably changed when Babar (50) tried to glide Siraj towards third-man and got castled.

Kuldeep scalped Saud Shakeel and Iftikhar Ahmed in the same over and two special deliveries from Bumrah dismantled Rizwan (49) and Shadab Khan's stumps.

Pakistan lost eight wickets for a mere 36 and India found its springboard to leap.

Next assignment

India: October 19 vs. **Bangladesh**, Pune, 2 p.m.

Pakistan: October 20 vs. **Australia**, Bengaluru, 2 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN

Abdullah Shafique lbw b Siraj 20 *(24b, 3x4)*, Imam-ul-Haq c Rahul b Hardik 36 *(38b, 6x4)*, Babar Azam b Siraj 50 *(58b, 7x4)*, Mohammad Rizwan b Bumrah 49 *(69b, 7x4)*, Saud Shakeel lbw b Kuldeep 6 *(10b)*, Iftikhar Ahmed b Kuldeep 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Shadab Khan b Bumrah 2 *(5b)*, Mohammad Nawaz c Bumrah b Hardik 4 *(14b)*, Hasan Ali c Gill b Jadeja 12 *(19b, 2x4)*, Shaheen Shah Afridi (not out) 2 *(10b)*, Haris Rauf lbw b Jadeja 2 *(6b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-1): 4; Total (in 42.5 overs): 191.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-41 (Shafique, 7.6 overs), 2-73 (Imam, 12.3), 3-155 (Babar, 29.4), 4-162 (Shakeel, 32.2), 5-166 (Iftikhar, 32.6), 6-168 (Rizwan, 33.6), 7-171 (Shadab, 35.2), 8-187 (Nawaz, 39.6), 9-187 (Hasan, 40.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 7-1-19-2 , Siraj 8-0-50-2 , Hardik 6-0-34-2, Kuldeep 10-0-35-2, Jadeja 9.5-0-38-2, Shardul 2-0-12-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Iftikhar b Afridi 86 *(63b, 6x4, 6x6)*, Shubman Gill c Shadab b Afridi 16 *(11b, 4x4)*, Virat Kohli c Nawaz b Hasan 16 *(18b, 3x4)*, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 53 *(62b, 3x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 19 *(29b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 30.3 overs): 192.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-23 (Gill, 2.5), 2-79 (Kohli, 9.5), 3-156 (Rohit, 21.4).

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Afridi 6-0-36-2, Hasan 6-0-34-1, Nawaz 8.3-0-47-0, Rauf 6-0-43-0, Shadab 4-0-31-0.

Toss: India.

PoM: Bumrah.

India won by seven wickets with 117 deliveries to spare.

Turning point: Once Siraj castled a well-set Babar, the Pakistan innings disintegrated. K.R. DEEPAK

'I have faith in myself and I am happy with the way I bowled'

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
AHMEDABAD

Mohammed Siraj leaked runs early before coming back with a stellar run that put the initial brakes on Pakistan in the World Cup match at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday. He got the first breakthrough (Abdullah Shafique) and then returned to castle a well-set Babar Azam.

From that moment, the game tilted towards India and understandably while striding into the media conference hall, Siraj (two for 50) was all smiles.

A reference was made to his expensive spells in the previous game against Afghanistan and quickly he said: "Just because you had an off-day doesn't mean that you are a bad bowler. I have faith in myself and I am happy with the way I bowled here. I am not a bad bowler," Siraj said.

Probed about the special delivery that accounted for Babar, Siraj said: "At that point Pakistan was playing well and they had a good partnership. It is just that he (Babar) played back and it wasn't as if the ball kept low, it had decent bounce but it skidded a bit and got him out."

Stating that playing a World Cup is a dream-come-true, Siraj said that the team is charged up and primed to perform. "We are backing each other. I never dreamt that I would play a World Cup considering the level I came from but here I am and am enjoying it," he said.

Asked about skipper Rohit Sharma's batting, Siraj said: "We all know about Rohit, he is a legend."

And about the hype around the match involving Pakistan, Siraj downplayed it: "We are taking it one game at a time. Just because it is against Pakistan we need not get worked up. This is a World Cup and we will play different teams and we need to adapt and perform."

Hitman continues to break records

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

India registered its eighth consecutive win against Pakistan in World Cups since 1992. This is the most one-sided contest in World Cup history alongside Pakistan's 8-0 record against Sri Lanka.

Rohit Sharma (586) surpassed Ricky Ponting (519) to become the leading run-scorer in successful World Cup run-chases. The Indian took just nine innings compared to the Australian's 16.

The India skipper also overtook Sachin Tendulkar for most World Cup 50-plus scores among Indians in run-chases.

Rohit became the third batter after Chris Gayle and Shahid Afridi to hit 300 sixes in ODIs. The Hitman is the fastest to the mark (246 innings), beating the West Indian (282 visits to the crease to reach the milestone) and the Pakistan player, who made it in 324.

Rohit (1195) surpassed Virat Kohli (1186) to become India's second highest run-scorer in the World Cup behind Tendulkar (2278). He currently has the highest average (66.38) in World Cups (min. 1000 runs).

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India	3	3	0	6	1.821
New Zealand	3	3	0	6	1.604
South Africa	2	2	0	4	2.360
Pakistan	3	2	1	4	-0.137
England	2	1	1	2	0.553
Bangladesh	3	1	2	2	-0.699
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0	-1.161
Netherlands	2	0	2	0	-1.800
Australia	2	0	2	0	-1.846
Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	-1.907

It looked like a bilateral series, not an ICC event: Arthur

Shayan Acharya
AHMEDABAD

The streets of Ahmedabad were a sea of blue as spectators donning India colours turned up for the marquee World Cup fixture against Pakistan at the 1,32,000-seater Narendra Modi Stadium on Saturday.

With just a handful of Pakistan fans and media personnel permitted to attend the match, the home team enjoyed the maximum crowd support.

However, sitting in the opponent's dressing room, Pakistan team director Mickey Arthur felt that it was more like a bilateral series. "It didn't seem like an ICC event. It looked like a bilateral series, like a BCCI event," Arthur said. Usually, at every ICC event, fans from across the border turn up in large numbers to cheer for their team. But it was totally different this time around.

"I didn't hear *Dil Dil Pakistan* coming through the microphones too often. That does play a role, but I am not using that as an excuse because for us, it was about living in the moment, about the next ball, and about how we would combat the Indian players tonight," Arthur said.

Asked whether fans should have been granted a visa, Arthur said, "I don't want to get fined just yet. I don't want to get fined."

Wave of support: The Men in Blue fans raised the decibel level in the marquee clash. VIJAY SONEJI

England will be keen to win big against struggling Afghanistan

The inexperience of the minnows, who have lost 14 successive matches in the tournament since 2015, stands exposed on the big stage, especially against the elite teams; Buttler's batters will be eager to have a good hit

ODI WORLD CUP

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Prep time: It will be a good chance for England to make the most of the Afghanistan contest to fine-tune for sterner tests ahead. R.V. MOORTHY

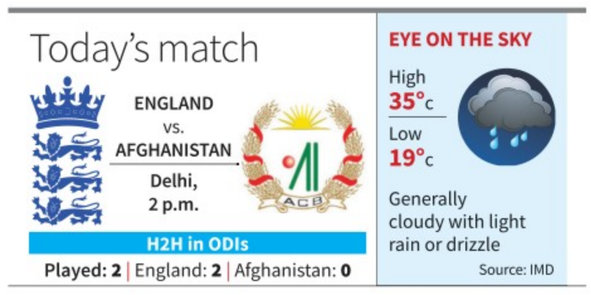
England has a reputation to protect. The defending champion may have taken off on the wrong foot in the World Cup but the thumping win over Bangladesh has underlined its preparedness.

On Sunday, on a batter-friendly surface at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground here, England will eye a run-feast at the expense of a winless Afghanistan.

Going by the fact that 754 runs were scored here in the South Africa-Sri Lanka match and how India chased down Afghanistan's 272 in just 35 overs, England would love to do its net run-rate some good.

Afghanistan's inexperience stands exposed on the big stage, especially against the elite teams. Somehow, the team gives the impression that in spite of all the individual brilliance, it is not prepared enough for the 50-over format.

Having lost 14 successive matches in the World Cup since 2015, Afghanistan is clearly one of the teams against which the semifinal aspirants are looking to better their net run-rate. Afghanistan batters and bowlers are yet to consistently show the temperament needed to excel in the ODIs.



England will be up against a three-pronged spin attack comprising Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rehman and Mohammad Nabi on a pitch that does not assist spin. Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott, an Englishman with over 200 internationals caps and the batting coach of England on its tour of India in 2021, is expected to give some valuable inputs.

But England is not worried. The champion side would love to bat first and give its batters an opportunity to score big.

Considering the stiffer challenges in the matches ahead, a good hit here will serve as a confidence-booster. Apart from the in-form top-order comprising Jonny Bairstow, Dawid Malan and Joe Root, the middle-order consisting of skipper Jos Buttler, Moeen Ali, Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran and Chris Woakes will be among those looking for time at the crease.

Overall, England looks good to collect an anticipated victory with a good run-rate to boot.

Momentous occasion: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, and International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach at the opening ceremony of the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

PM confirms India's bid to host 2036 Olympics

IOC SESSION

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday articulated India's aspiration to host the 2036 Summer Olympics and become the only the fourth Asian country to host the Games.

He said that the country is enthusiastic about organising the Olympics and is fully committed to making this dream a reality.

"India eagerly anticipates hosting the Olympics and the country will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to organise the 2036 Olympic Games, it's a dream and aspiration of 140 crore Indians," he said ahead of the 141st session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) here.

However, he did not mention which city would host the Games.

Mr. Modi also conveyed the country's willingness to host the 2029 Youth Olympics and expressed confidence in receiving constant support from the IOC.

The Prime Minister underlined the significance of the IOC session taking place in the country after 40 years and also informed the audience about India's victory against Pakistan in the World Cup in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

"I congratulate Team Bharat and every Indian on this historic victory", he said.

Part of Indian culture

Stating that sports have been an important aspect of Indian culture and lifestyle, Mr. Modi said: "When you go to the villages of India, one can find that any festival remains incomplete without sports. Indians are not just sports lovers, but we also live it."

Development

Mr. Modi also listed recent measures for the development of sports in India mentioning events like Khelo India Games, Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India Winter Games and the upcoming Khelo India Para Games.

He also said that "sports is not just for winning medals but is a medium to win hearts and it belongs to all for all. It not only prepares champions but also promotes peace, progress and wellness. Therefore, sports is another medium of uniting the world".

Mr. Modi declared the session open in the presence of the IOC president Thomas Bach and member Nita Mukesh Ambani.

Thumb fracture rules Williamson out for a few round-robin matches

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

A big name is necessary for non-India matches to attract crowds at the ongoing World Cup. If it is one among the contemporary 'Fab Four' of batters, then it sure helps fill up at least half the stadium.

One could see that on Friday when the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium's 14,000-strong crowd threw its support behind only one person – Kane Williamson. It was his No. 22 jersey that was widely seen from among the crowd that got the money's worth.

The 33-year-old played his crisis man role to perfection with a superb 78 to guide New Zealand's chase against Bangladesh.

It was as if he continued from his last international game seven months ago (215 vs Sri Lanka in a Test) and not someone who had to undergo knee surgery in the intervening period.

Unfortunate: Williamson is attended to after suffering a freak injury against Bangladesh. R. RAGU

The batting touch was evident even in the two warm-up games where he scored fine half-centuries. But against Bangladesh, it was the real deal as he walked in at 12 for one.

After getting his eye in, Williamson put his team on the victory path. It marked a remarkable comeback for the Kiwi skipper who was not sure if he would play in the tournament after the operation in April.

Unfortunately, just as he was nearing another international century, he took a blow on his left hand off a throw and retired hurt.

On Saturday, an X-ray confirmed an undisplaced fracture on his left thumb, forcing him out of action for a few matches. However, he will be with the squad, hoping to play later in the tournament. Tom Blundell is flying out as cover.

For a country of around 5.2 million people, the Kiwis probably have more fans outside their borders and are the second favourite team among supporters of most cricket-playing nations. And Williamson has had a major influence in this. The exemplary grace with which he led his team after a heartbreaking defeat in the 2019 final against England showed his class. As for the fans, they would be rooting for a quick return for Kane.

We are trying to be creative in the middle period, says Ferguson

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson was pleased with the bounce on offer from the pitch at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Friday. His fiery spell, in which he peppered the Bangladesh batters with short-pitched stuff, paid rich dividends as he scalped three wickets and grabbed the Player-of-the-Match award.

"It was nice. I have played once here before, and it was spin-friendly. But it's nice that this wicket had pace and bounce," said the Kiwi pacer.

"When it was not swinging and on a fuller length, it looked pretty defendable. We tried to change things up, go short, and sort of what I do through the middle," added Ferguson.

"We are trying to be creative in the middle period. We are just trying to take wickets, and it's important here in India. We did that as a group well in the first three games. Once again, I'm trying to find different ways to put the batters under pressure and hopefully get a wicket.

Hues of a catch: Conway came up with a superlative effort to send back Shanto off Phillips. R. RAGU

The other star for the Black Caps was Daryl Mitchell, who, too, made it clear that he would prefer the same strip for the team's next match against Afghanistan on Wednesday. Mitchell started scratchily trying to take on the spinners before coming into his own as he took the attack to the opposition and finished with an unbeaten 89.

"There's a job for me to do within this team, and it involves being a part of the partnership and communicating with each other. We were trying to put the pressure back on the opposition, and it was nice to get the job done," said Mitchell on his aggressive approach from the start.

The all-rounder also said Devon Conway and Mitchell Santner's knowledge of the conditions from their time with Chennai Super Kings in the IPL helped the team prepare.

"It definitely had a little bit of bounce. A couple of Chennai boys in Santner and Conway gave us some inside information which was good to have.

"It's a nice wicket, and hopefully, it's the same in a few days' time," he added.

Shanaka to miss rest of WC with thigh injury

Reuters
DUBAI

Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka has been ruled out of the World Cup after suffering a thigh injury, with Chamika Karunaratne approved as a replacement in the squad, the ICC said on Saturday.

Shanaka sustained a right thigh muscle injury in Tuesday's six-wicket loss to Pakistan. The 32-year-old will need three weeks to recover.

"The Event Technical Committee of the ICC men's cricket World Cup 2023 has approved Chamika Karunaratne as a replacement for Dasun Shanaka in the Sri Lankan squad," the ICC said.

Shanaka. AP

Sindhu bows out in semifinal to higher-seeded Zhi

ARCTIC OPEN

Press Trust of India
VANTAA (FINLAND)

P.V. Sindhu's bid for a title came to an end in the Arctic Open, as the eighth seed went down fighting to fifth-seeded Zhi Yi Wang of China here on Saturday.

Sindhu lost the opening game 12-21 before bouncing back in the second 21-11.

However, the Chinese upped the ante in the final game, beating Sindhu 21-7.

In the quarterfinal, Sindhu prevailed over Nguyen Thuy Linh of Vietnam.

Sindhu. FILE PHOTO

She had won 20-22, 22-20, 21-18 to halt a four-match winning run by of the unseeded World No. 26 Nguyen before her semifinal loss that ended India's run in the tournament.

The Indian had begun the tournament with a victory over Nozomi Okuhara in the opening round. She beat the Japanese shuttler 21-13, 21-6 at the Vantaa Energia Areena.

In their 19 head-to-head matches, Sindhu came out on top 10 times.

Sindhu followed this up with a straight-game victory over Hsu Wen-chi of Taiwan (21-11, 21-10) in the second round.

INBRIEF

Martin wins in Indonesia, overtakes Bagnaia in title race

Spaniard Jorge Martin won Saturday's sprint race in the Indonesia MotoGP at Pertamina Mandalika International Street Circuit to overtake rival Francesco Bagnaia in the championship standings. Luca Marini, who had earlier claimed pole position in qualifying, was second, while Marco Bezzecchi completed the podium a week after surgery for a broken collarbone.

Rohan-Ebden duo in Shanghai Masters final

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden beat Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul of France 7-6(0), 4-6, [10-2] in the semifinals of the $8,800,000 ATP Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on Saturday. The fourth-seeded Indo-Aussie pair will play seventh seeds Marcel Granollers of Spain and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina in the final.

The results (semifinals): $8,800,000 ATP, Shanghai: Rohan Bopanna & Matthew Ebden (Aus) bt Sadio Doumbia & Fabien Reboul (Fra) 7-6(0), 4-6, [10-2].
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Zeel Desai bt Oana Gavrila (Rou) 6-4, 6-1.
$15,000 ITF women, Hua Hin, Thailand: Patcharin Cheapchandej (Tha) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-7(5), 7-6(5), 6-2.

Ronaldo and Mbappe help their sides secure a spot

Both stars find the target twice each as Portugal and France qualify; Lukebakio nets a brace and Lukaku scores once as Belgium pips Austria in a five-goal thriller to confirm its berth

EURO QUALIFIERS

Associated Press
PARIS

Kylian Mbappe and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored twice to help France and Portugal secure a spot at next year's European Championship with a perfect record in qualifying, with Belgium also clinching a berth in Germany on Friday.

Mbappe's two goals helped France secure a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Amsterdam for a perfect sixth win in Group B.

Greece moved up to the second place with 12 points after Giakoumakis and Giorgos Masouras scored a goal a piece to beat Ireland 2-0 in Dublin. The Netherlands remains on nine in third with a game in hand.

Ronaldo's double improved his record tally of international goals to 125 in 202 appearances and led Portugal to a 3-2 win over Slovakia.

With three games to go, Portugal has 100% record after seven straight wins with a 27-2 goal difference, the best-ever performance in a European qualifying campaign. Slovakia was the first team to score against Portugal.

Bosnia won 2-0 at pointless Lichtenstein and is fourth on nine with Iceland another two back.

Romelu Lukaku scored again and Dodi Lukebakio added two more for Belgium, which had to hang on with 10 men to beat Austria 3-2 in Vienna and secure advancement from Group F.

Belgium has 16 points from six games, with Austria three points behind.

Goal-machine: Ronaldo's brace took his record tally of international strikes to 125 in 202 appearances. GETTY IMAGES

The results: Group B: Netherlands 1 (Hartman 84) lost to France 2 (Mbappe 7 & 53); Republic of Ireland 0 lost to Greece 2 (Giakoumakis 20, Masouras 45+4).

Group F: Austria 2 (Laimer 73, Sabitzer 84-pen) lost to Belgium 3 (Lukebakio 12, 55, Lukaku 58); Estonia 0 lost to Azerbaijan 2 (Bayramov 9, Sheydaev 45+4-pen).

Group J: Iceland 1 (Oskarsson 23) drew with Luxembourg 1 (Rodrigues 46); Portugal 3 (Ramos 18, Ronaldo 29-pen & 72) bt Slovakia 2 (Hancko 69, Lobotka 80); Liechtenstein 0 lost to Bosnia and Herzegovina 2 (Rahmanovic 13, Stevanovic 41).

'Banning Russia was only decision that was left open to IOC'

GENERAL

Agence France-Presse
MUMBAI

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said on Saturday the International Olympic Committee had made the "only decision left open to them" in suspending Russia's national Olympic body for violating the territorial integrity of Ukraine's membership.

The IOC's move, made on Thursday during an ongoing executive board meeting in Mumbai, came after the Russian Olympic Committee recognised regional organisations from four Ukrainian territories annexed since Russia's invasion began in 2022.

World Athletics, however, originally excluded competitors, coaches and officials from Russia and Belarus, a supporter of the invasion, from its events as early as March 2022.

"I think it was the right decision," Coe told a news conference. "I think it was the only decision that was left open to them (the IOC). Our position at World Athletics is clear and has been clear on a number of issues since 2015."

Coe. AFP

But former UK politician Coe, speaking ahead of Saturday's opening ceremony for the IOC session in Mumbai, said: "I'm delighted to be representing my sport in the Olympic movement."

Coe was forthcoming as he lauded the rise of Indian athletics following a record haul of 29 medals at the recent Asian Games.

AFI president Adille J Sumariwalla, alongside Coe, said no decision had yet been made regarding 2027. "We haven't made a formal bidand in the next couple of days we will finalise," said Sumariwalla, also a vice-president of World Athletics.

LIVE TELECAST

Delhi Half Marathon: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 a.m.
Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
ATP: Shanghai Masters, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2 p.m.
Euro 2024: European Qualifiers, Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)

Shanker and Rishitha clinch National under-16 titles

TENNIS

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shanker Heisnam played a crafty all-court game to outwit V. Thirumurugan 6-1, 6-2 in the under-16 boys final of the Fenesta National sub-junior tennis championship at the DLTA Complex on Saturday.

The left-hander Thirumurugan had the game but not the consistency to trouble his athletic opponent.

Rishitha Basireddy was equally efficient in taming Aishi Bisht 6-4, 6-3 for the under-16 girls title. Rishitha, who had endured four three-set matches along the way in a draw of 64, was quite sharp in the final to allow any room for a fight for her opponent.

Rishitha had saved match points and won from being 1-5 down in the decider against Harithashree Venkatesh in the quarterfinals.

The top seed in the under-14 boys event, the wiry Hruthik Katakam, proved a hard nut to crack for giant-killer Prakaash Sarran.

Though Hruthik won 6-4, 6-3, it was a compliment to Prkaaash's fighting ability as the latter had dropped only 10 games while winning the earlier five matches. He had also won the doubles title with Tavish Pahwa.

Prisha Shinde had little difficulty in winning the under-14 girls title against Anandita Upadhyay.

Saket Jain, business head of Fenesta, highlighted the commitment of DCM Shriram group to support tennis for more than three decades and presented the trophies along with renowned coach Balram Singh.

Victorious: The newly crowned National sub-junior champions Hruthik (u-14), Shanker (u-16), Rishitha (u-16) and Prisha (u-14) with their reward. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Saket Jain, business head of Fenesta, highlights the commitment of DCM Shriram group to support tennis for more than three decades

The results (finals):
Under-16: Boys: Shanker Heisnam bt V. Thirumurugan 6-1, 6-2.
Girls: Rishitha Basireddy bt Aishi Bisht 6-4, 6-3.
Under-14: Boys: Hruthik Katakam bt Prakaash Sarran 6-4, 6-3.
Girls: Prisha Shinde bt Anandita Upadhyay 6-1, 6-2.

Florent Bax takes title

Sports Bureau

Second seed Florent Bax of France beat Ishaque Eqbal 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament at the Ahmedabad City Tennis Foundation courts on Saturday.

Except for being stretched to three sets by third seed Sidharth Rawat in the semifinals, it was smooth sailing for the Frenchman.

It was the second singles title in the professional circuit for the 24-year-old Bax, who served nine aces and converted four of 10 breakpoints in the final.

Galaxy of stars

Champions all: Leander Paes, Manika Batra, Neeraj Chopra, P.R. Sreejesh, Abhinav Bindra and Nikhat Zareen snapped prior to the inauguration ceremony of the 141st International Olympic Committee session in Mumbai on Saturday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Arjun powers to victory in Touring Cars race

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Veteran Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) scripted a masterclass as he overcame fading light and a drying track afternoon showers to win the only race of the day in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship at the Madras International Circuit (MIC) here on Saturday.

The eight-lap race for the touring cars witnessed some drama even before it commenced.

Pole-sitter and Arjun's team-mate Gurunath Meiyappan, the championship leader in the Indian Touring Cars (ITC) category, retired with a turbo issue on the outlap itself and could not take the start.

Setting the pace: Arjun leading the Indian Touring Cars race at the MIC on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arjun, the 48-year-old multiple champion from Coimbatore, who had qualified P3, made a great start and overtook Ritesh Rai, the private entrant from Chennai, by Turn-2 in the opening lap and never looked back. His vast experience was in evidence as he managed past the water puddles around the track with a near-flawless drive.

While Rai came in second, Mumbai's Biren Pitawalla (N1 Racing) completed the podium. Behind the ITC cars on the combined grid, Deepak Ravikumar led a podium sweep for Performance Racing, in the Indian Junior Touring Cars class with Akkineni Anand Prasad and Srinivas Teja following him home.

Provisional results (8 laps): Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Arjun Balu (Coimbatore, Race Concepts) 16:14.970s; 2. Ritesh Rai (Chennai, Pvt.) 16:16.353; 3. Biren Pithawalla (Mumbai, Team N1) 16:16.907.

Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, Performance Racing) 16:40.998; 2. Akkineni Anand Prasad (Chennai, Performance Racing) 16:59.021; 3. Srinivas Teja (Chennai, Performance Racing) 17:07.753.

Super Stock (Race-1): 1. Zahan Commissariat (Mumbai, Pvt.) 17:43.689; 2. T.S. Dilijith (Thrissur, DTS Racing) 17:47.217; 3. Jarshan Anand (Chennai, DB Motorsport) 15:50.751 + 1 lap.

Animesh, Pooja hog the limelight

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Teenager Pooja Singh clinched the gold medal in the women's high jump event at the 62nd National Open athletics championships at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday. The 16-year-old, who finished sixth in the 2022 Asian Games, took the honours with a 1.81m jump.

In the men's 200m, Odisha's Animesh Kujur created a new meet record. His's timing of 20.74s bettered the mark set by Amlan Borgohain (20.75s) in 2021.

Asian Games bronze medalist Vithya Ramraj was listed as a starter in the women's 400m hurdles, but did not compete. Railways' Sinchal Kaveramma (57.88s) won gold in the event.

The results (winners): Men: 200m: Animesh Kujur (Odi), 20.74s (NMR, Old: Amlan Borgohain, 20.75s, 2021); **800m:** Satya Dev (Har), 1:51.89s; **400m hurdles:** Nikhil Bharadwaj (Pun), 50.45s; **3,000m steeplechase:** Mohammed Hasan (SSCB), 8:38.70s; **Triple jump:** A.B. Arun (SSCB), 16.46m

Women: 200m: Kamaljeet Kaur (Pun), 23.66s; **800m:** Yamuna Ladkat (Mah), 2:01.95s; **400m hurdles:** Sinchal Kaveramma (Rlys), 57.88s; **High jump:** Pooja Singh (Har), 1.81m; **Heptathlon:** Sonu Kumari (Rlys), 4933 points; **Javelin:** Jyoti (Har), 53.59m; **3,000m steeplechase:** Komal Jagdale (Rlys), 10:32.14s.

4x400m mixed relay: ONGC 3:23.33s.

New mark: Animesh sprinting to a meet record in the 200m. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru City wins overall championship

Mysuru takes the honours in athletics; Prithvi and Megha chosen best athletes in men's and women's sections respectively

Best on show: The victorious Bengaluru City squad with its reward. M.A. SRIRAM

DASARA CM CUP

C.K. Muralidharan
MYSURU

Bengaluru City with 205 medals claimed the overall championship title in the three day Prathibhaneveshana Dasara CM Cup 2023 that concluded at the Chamundivihar sports complex here on Saturday.

A superior performance by Bengaluru City in the team games helped it to dethrone Mysuru, which finished third with 150 medals behind Belagavi (164).

In athletics, Mysuru Division with 100 points (11 gold, 13 silver and five bronze) won the team championship ahead of Belagavi (12, 6 and 8) with 94 points.

Prithvi Seregar (Bengaluru City, long Jump gold, 948 points) and Megha Munavallu (Belagavi, 400m, 930 points) were chosen the best athletes in the men's and women's sections respectively. In the only athletic event of the day, Belagavi's Govindaraj F.H. Halagi won the men's 10,000m with a timing of 33:24.47s.

The results:

Athletics: Men's 10,000m: 1. Govindaraj F Halagi, 33.24.47s.

Team events: Men: Netball: 1. Bengaluru Rural, 2. Bengaluru City, 3.Belagavi; **swimming:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural; **football:** 1. Kalburgi, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Belagavi; **table tennis:** 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Belagavi.

Hockey: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Mysuru; **volleyball:** 1. Belagavi, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru City; **yoga:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Mysuru; **archery:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Belagavi.

Ball badminton: 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural; **handball:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural; **badminton:** 1. Belagavi, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural; **tennis:** 1. Belagavi, 2. Mysuru, 3. Bengaluru Rural; **kho-kho:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Mysuru.

Women: Netball: 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Mysuru; **basketball:** 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Belagavi; **kho-kho:** 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Belagavi; **table tennis:** 1. Belagavi, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Mysuru.

Yoga:1. Belagavi, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Bengaluru City; **volleyball:** 1. Mysuru, 2. Belagavi, 3. Bengaluru City; **ball badminton:** 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Bengaluru City; **archery:** 1. Bengaluru City, 2. Bengaluru Rural, 3. Belagavi; **handball:** 1. Mysuru, 2. Bengaluru City, 3. Bengaluru Rural.

Massive win for Karnataka

Sports Bureau

Karnataka crushed Gujarat by 140 runs in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy one-day cricket championship in Hyderabad on Saturday.

The scores: At Kolkata: Hyderabad 247/9 in 50 overs (Aaron George Varghese 57, M.S. Karthikeya 41, K. Sriniketh 30 n.o., Swaraj Chavan 4/48) bt Maharashtra 207 in 49.5 overs (S.S. Dhas 103, Sohan Jamale 43, M.S. Karthikeya 3/43).
At Hyderabad: Himachal Pradesh 165 in 44.5 overs (Robin M. Sandal 40, Musheer Khan 3/14) lost to Mumbai 168/4 in 30.5 overs (Musheer Khan 33, Aditya Rawat 56, Nutan 36 n.o.).
Karnataka 251 in 47.2 overs (S.U. Karthik 33, Harshil Dharmani 72, Dheeraj Gowda 51, Yuvaraj Ora 31) bt Gujarat 111 in 25.3 overs (Ronit Patel 53, Hardik Raj 5/20).
Jharkhand 225/7 in 50 overs (Nakul Yadav 111, Suvarn Kumar 34, Paras 3/50) bt Chandigarh 132 in 38.4 overs (Devang Kaushik 41, Aaryan Verma 31).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Aristocrat hammers Coorg Direwolves

Aristocrat blanked Coorg Direwolves 6-0 in the KSHA Super 10 five-a-side hockey tournament on Saturday.
Other results: Aristocrat bt Falcon 5-3; Blue Star drew with Warriors SC 2-2; Falcon drew with Bombers 4-4; Rising Star drew with Rainbow 4-4.

Dynamic Sporting blanks SUFC

Dynamic Sporting thrashed SUFC 4-0 in an under-11 match of the Karnataka Youth Premier League on Saturday.
Other results: U-11: Snipers FC bt William FA 3-1; Alchemy drew with VAS FA 0-0; Stadium FC bt Young Strikers 6-3; Young Gems FC bt Ronaldo 4-1; SCB bt BWFC 3-0; Sports Hood bt BBFA 2-1.